

KING SPAWN®

image
1
DIGITAL
EDITION



DUPPE

KING SPAWN



MCFARIANE
fco

image

1

DIGITAL
EDITION

KING SPAWN®



-FINCH-
+fco

image
1
DIGITAL
EDITION

KING SPAWN®



KING SPAWN[®]



Capullo
2021
McFARLANE

KING SPAWN®

image

1

DIGITAL
EDITION



BOOTH
McFARIANE

fco

KING SPAWN



Cates
McFARLANE
Chf



PENCILLER

TITLE

King Spawn

INKER

ISSUE #

1

MONTH

EDITOR

TITLE CODE

COVER

KING SPAWN®



MINIMUM BLEED 1/4" ALL AROUND

LIVE AREA

CROP
BLEED

PRINTED COVER SIZE: 6 5/8 X 10 3/16

KING SPAWN®



SCRIPT/PLOT

SEAN LEWIS KING SPAWN

TODD McFARLANE ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE

TODD McFARLANE BACK-UP STORIES

ART

JAVI FERNANDEZ KING SPAWN

STEPHEN SEGOVIA HAUNT

MARCIO TAKARA NIGHTMARE

PHILIP TAN THE HERO

BRETT BOOTH GUNSLINGER

INKER

ADELSON CORONA

DANIEL HENRIQUES

COLORS

FCO PLASCENCIA KING SPAWN

ADDITIONAL COLORS

ANDREW DALHOUSE

MARCELO MAIOLO

PETER STEIGERWALD

DAVE McCAIG

LETTERING

ANDWORLD DESIGN KING SPAWN

TOM ORZECOWSKI

COVER ARTISTS

TODD McFARLANE

PUPPETEER LEE

DAVID FINCH

SEAN GORDON MURPHY

BRETT BOOTH INKED BY TODD

GREG CAPULLO INKED BY TODD

DONNY CATES INKED BY TODD

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
TODD McFARLANE

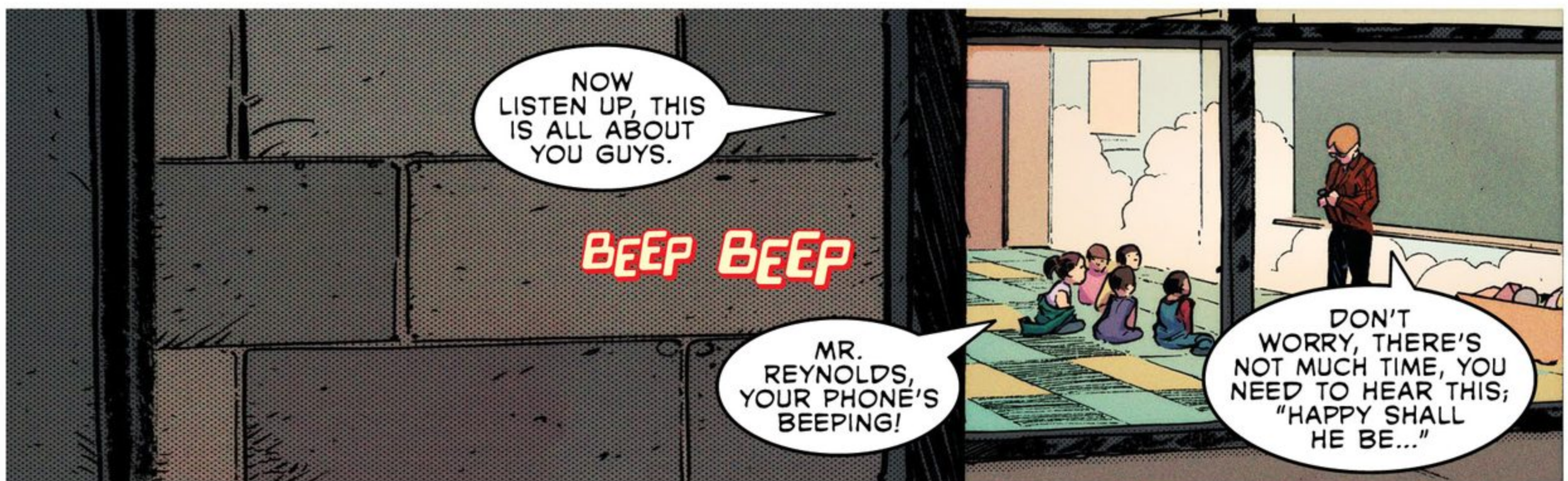
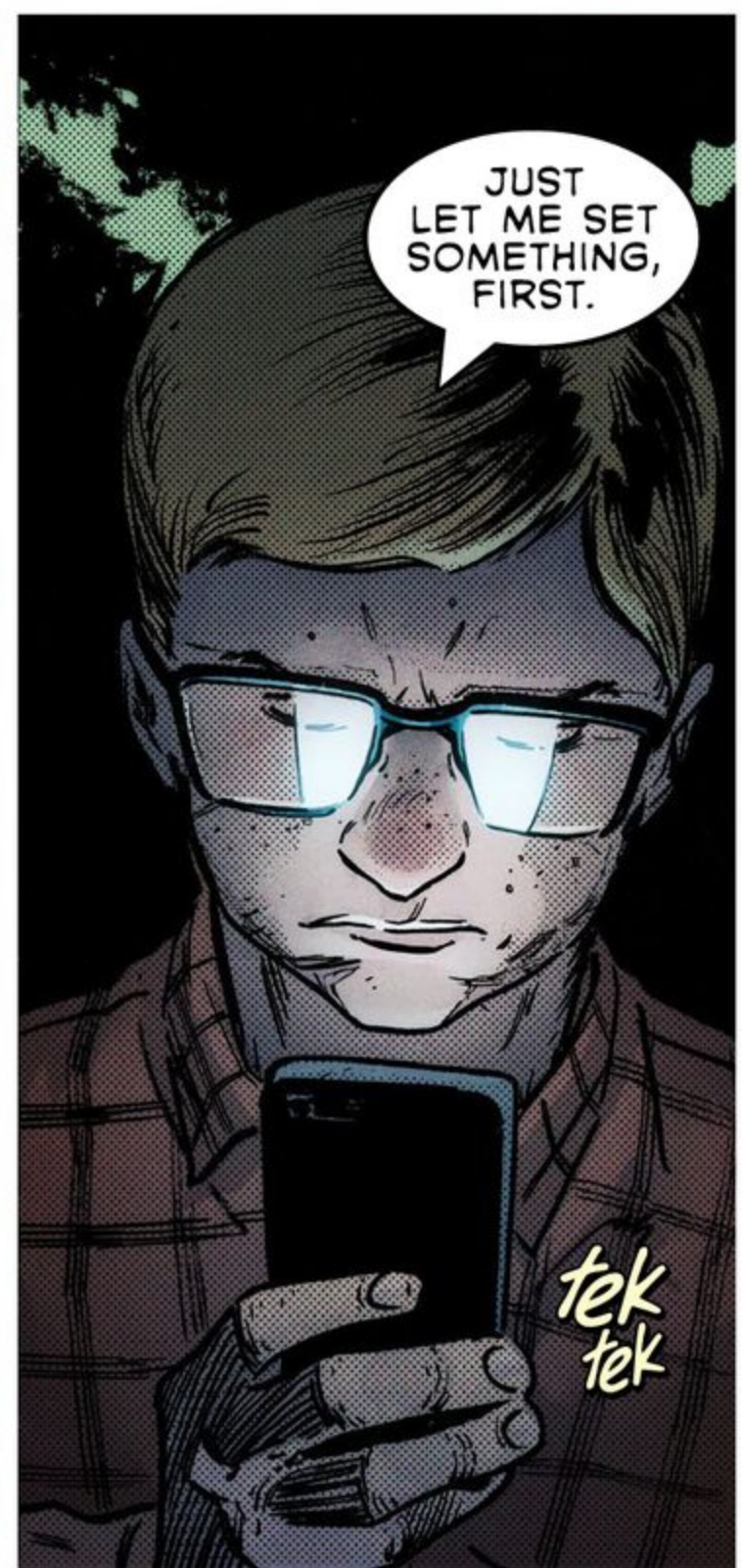
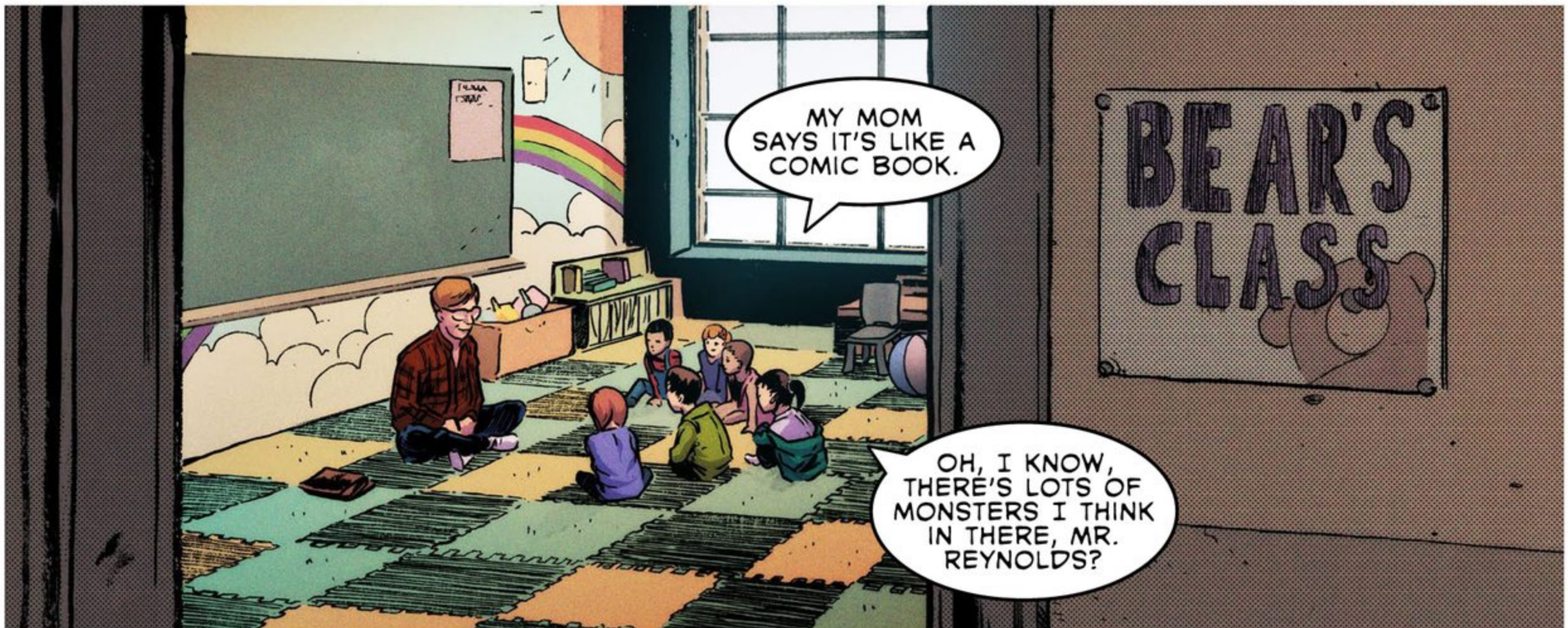
EDITOR
THOMAS HEALY

Production Artist
NIKOLETT MIHÁLKA

Production Assistant
YVETTE ARTEAGA

Publisher for
Image Comics/
Chief Creative Officer
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE



"...WHO TAKETH AND
SLAMS THY LITTLE
ONES AGAINST THE
STONES."

"THIS IS HOW THEY ALWAYS
START--BY TARGETING,
THEN FEASTING, IN AS
SPECTACULAR FASHION
AS THEY CAN ON THOSE
TOO INNOCENT TO
DEFEND THEMSELVES."





"AND THE SADDEST PART
IS HUMANITY IS UNAWARE
THAT HEAVEN IS UNWARE
THAT HELL HAVE BEEN ATTACKING
THEM FOR CENTURIES."



"SOMETIMES
JUST FOR SPORT."



"OTHER TIMES
WITH SPECIFIC
PURPOSE..."



"...TO DRAW
OUT THEIR
ENEMY."



JESSICA PRIEST A.K.A. SHE-
SPAWN. FORMER GOVERNMENT
BLACK-OPS AGENT.

I CHECKED WITH
ONE OF MY CONTACTS IN
D.C.--THEIR INVESTIGATION
SHOWS NO PRIOR RECORD
FOR THAT TEACHER. HE
TAUGHT THIRTY YEARS
WITHOUT INCIDENT.

SO, HE JUST
ASCENDS TO THE
PEARLY GATES WITH
HIS ARMS FULL OF
TROPHIES?

THAT'S
WHAT YOU
THINK, THOSE
CHILDREN
WERE...
TROPHIES?

NOT
TO ME. TO
THEM.

AL,
DO YOU
READ?

I'VE
SEARCHED,
BUT I'M NOT SEEING
ANY CONNECTIONS TO
"SHADOW PLAYERS."
I THINK THIS IS
ALL HUMAN.

THEN
LOOK
AGAIN.

I'VE
BEEN OVER
IT FIVE
TIMES...

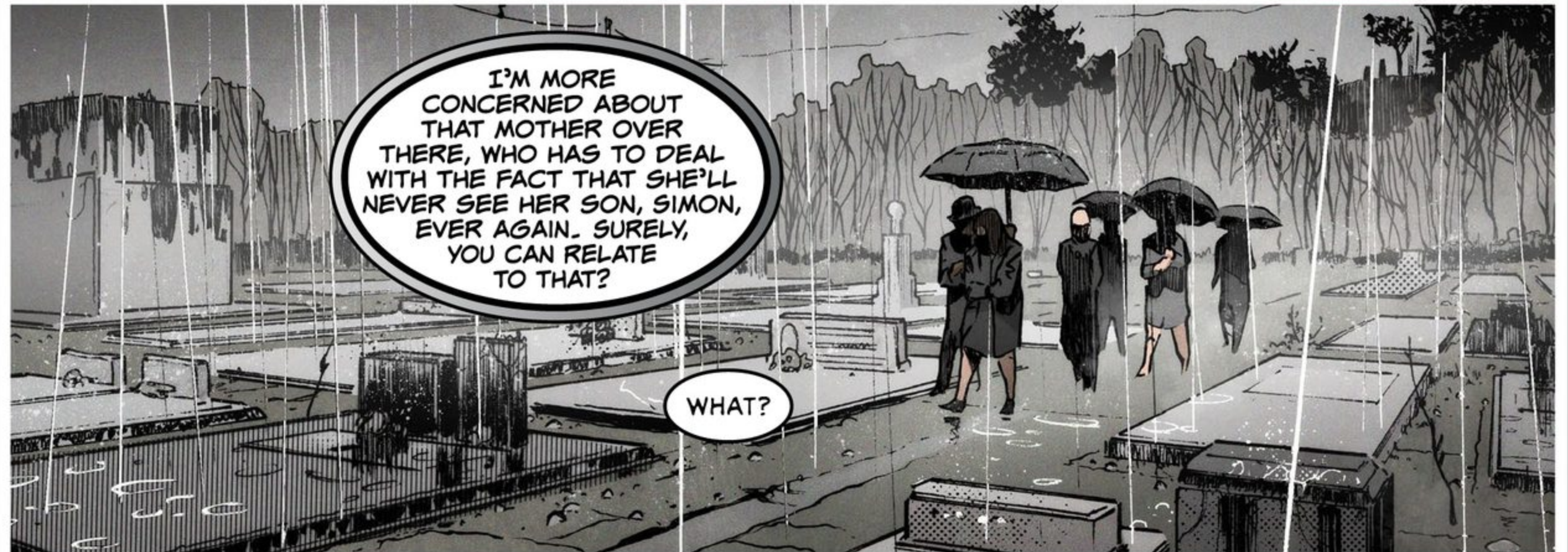
THEN
DO IT A SIXTH.
I'M WATCHING A
MOTHER BURYING
HER SON. MY GUT
SAYS IF WE CAN'T
FIND SOMETHING,
THIS'LL HAPPEN
AGAIN.





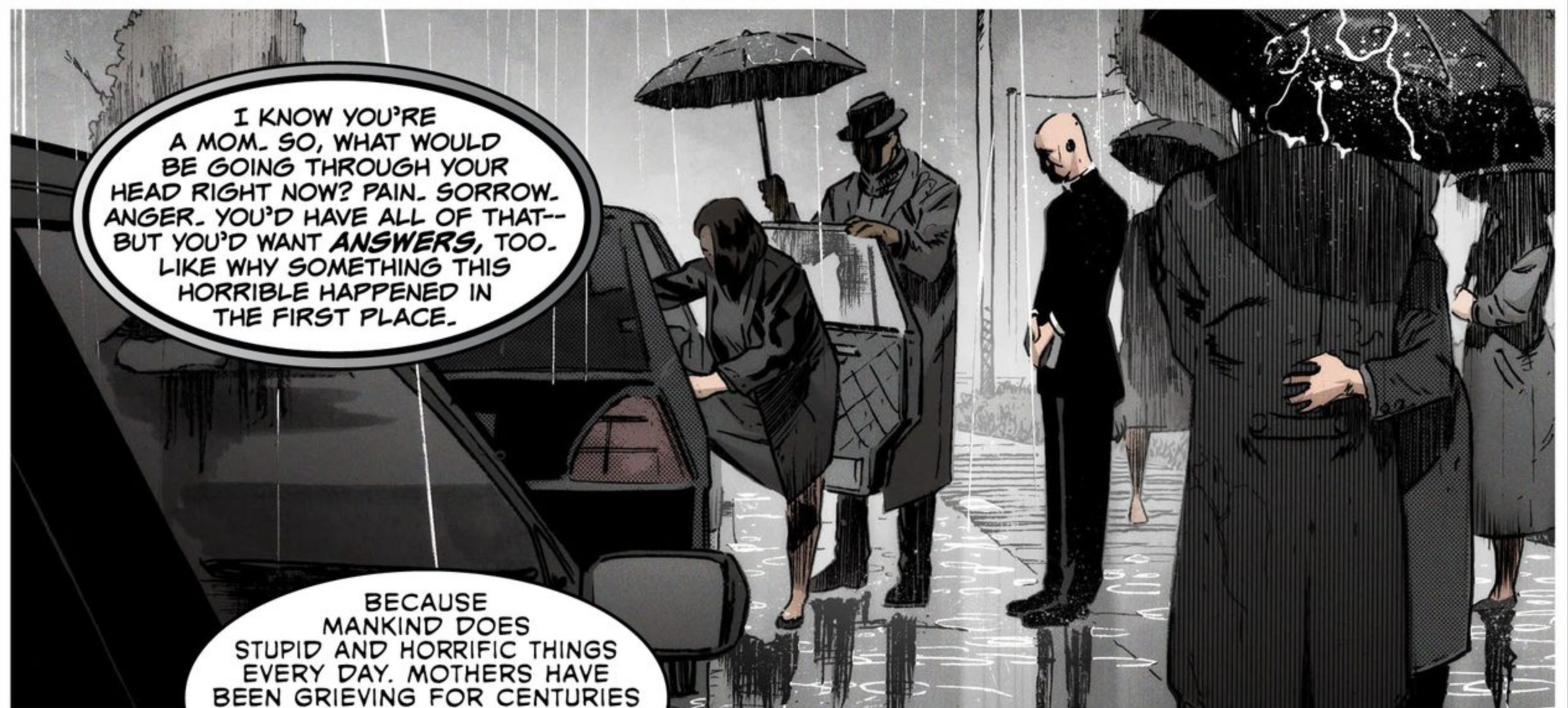
HE'S DOING THE BEST HE CAN, YOU MAY WANT TO EASE UP A LITTLE.

MARC'S A BIG BOY. HE CAN HANDLE IT.



I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT MOTHER OVER THERE, WHO HAS TO DEAL WITH THE FACT THAT SHE'LL NEVER SEE HER SON, SIMON, EVER AGAIN. SURELY, YOU CAN RELATE TO THAT?

WHAT?



I KNOW YOU'RE A MOM. SO, WHAT WOULD BE GOING THROUGH YOUR HEAD RIGHT NOW? PAIN. SORROW. ANGER. YOU'D HAVE ALL OF THAT-- BUT YOU'D WANT **ANSWERS**, TOO. LIKE WHY SOMETHING THIS HORRIBLE HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BECAUSE MANKIND DOES STUPID AND HORRIFIC THINGS EVERY DAY. MOTHERS HAVE BEEN GRIEVING FOR CENTURIES AT THE SENSELESSNESS OF THEIR LOST CHILDREN. WHAT MAKES THIS TRAGEDY SO UNIQUE?



IT'S A MESSAGE, AND SOMEONE'S TRYING TO DIRECT IT AT ME.



WHAT'S THAT?

SOMETHING I FOUND IN THE RUBBLE?



IT'S CALLED A "SIGIL," AND THAT SYMBOL TELLS THE WHOLE PROPHECY OF WHAT THE PERSON BEHIND THIS IS PLANNING.

HAVE YOU DECIPHERED IT?



NOT COMPLETELY, BUT PART OF IT SAYS THIS WON'T BE THE ONLY ATTACK. I'LL NEED OTHER SHADOW AGENTS TO DECODE THE REST.



YOU'RE SAYING THEY KILLED A BUNCH OF KIDS JUST TO GET YOUR ATTENTION?

I TOLD YOU, WE'RE DEALING WITH THE SOULLESS.



I...

I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS NOW. IF WE'RE PART OF THE REASON THOSE KIDS ARE DEAD. LEAST WE CAN DO IS PAY OUR RESPECTS.



AL?

"STANDING NEXT TO DIRT DOESN'T SHOW ANYONE RESPECT. THE PARENTS NEED ANSWERS... AND IF THEY KNEW WHY THIS ALL HAPPENED, THEY'D WANT VENGEANCE, TOO."

ZEALOT19 15 mins ago
Yes god Metatron has struck!!!!

SONICisnotaHEDGEHOG 15 mins ago
Fucking troll. Kids are DEAD!

thetruthisouthere 14 mins ago
Well he has a point kids die
every day and ppl don't care

BIGMEECH 13 mins ago
Where was that big hombre
Spawn thought his gig was
stopping that shit or does
he just do photo shoots

ZEALOT19 13 mins ago
This will not be the last attack!

SONICisnotaHEDGEHOG 13 mins ago
Out of the comments asshole!

BIGMEECH 12 mins ago
Not me Bot. I tap that and you
dump porn in my hard drive

CHLOE (Admin) 10 mins ago
User what's your name?

ZEALOT19 12 mins ago
Follow the link... psalms.link

UNKNOWN USER 11 mins ago
What if Spawn is watching you?

BIGMEECH 10 mins ago
Yo, the user total hasn't gone
up. It still says there are four of
us and the admin. But there's 5.

SONICisnotaHEDGEHOG 9 mins ago
Wtf creepy

thetruthisouthere 9 mins ago
I'm live recording

UNKNOWN USER 8 mins ago
Zealot tell me about psalms.

ZEALOT19 8 mins ago
Fuck you! We are legion!

UNKNOWN USER 7 mins ago
Tell your LEGION I'm
coming for all of you.

CHLOE (Admin) 6 mins ago
He's gone? What the hell
was that. I'm closing the
room for the night.

ZEALOT19 6 mins ago
There will be more
dead kiddies!!!!!!

SONICisnotaHEDGEHOG 5 mins ago
Asshole leave!

BIGMEECH 3 mins ago
Fuck I wished it'd
just been porn.



"TIME'S AGAINST ME.
I CAN FEEL THEIR
CLOCK TICKING."



"THE SIGIL ALSO
SAYS THERE'S A LIST
SOMEWHERE--FILES
WITH NAMES OF EVERY
SHADOW PLAYER STUCK
HERE ON EARTH. THE
DEMONS AND ANGELS
HIDING IN HUMAN
SKIN AMONG US."



"I'M SURE THAT
BOMB-HAPPY
SCHOOL
TEACHER WAS
ONE OF THEM."



"WHOEVER HE
SERVED, THOSE THAT
PLANNED IT, THEY
WANT TO BE FOUND."



"HOPING THE MEDIA WILL
FILL THE AIRWAVES WITH
SENSATIONAL HEADLINES
ABOUT DEAD CHILDREN."



"OR POLITICIANS ON TV
SAYING, 'THOUGHTS
AND PRAYERS.'"



"FINE, THEY
CAN SAY THEIR
PRAYERS..."

"...AT SOME POINT, THOUGH, THEY'LL REALIZE GOD ISN'T ANSWERING ANY OF THEM."

I SWEAR TO GOD, SENATOR, IF YOU TRY MAKING THIS ABOUT ANYTHING BUT GRIEVING PARENTS AND INNOCENT CHILDREN, I'LL RUIN YOU! YOU HEAR ME? I'LL BURY YOU ON THE CHRISTMAS STRATEGY COMMITTEE 'TIL YOU BECOME TOTALLY IRRELEVANT.

AND I DON'T GIVE A SHIT IF YOU ARE JEWISH. NOW, HERE'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY PUBLICLY...

"THE SCHOOL TEACHER WAS A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN AND INSPIRATION FOR OTHERS TO MODEL THEMSELVES FROM. YOUR HEART BREAKS FOR THE LOSS OF THOSE YOUNG CHILDREN, BUT YOU'RE CONSIDERING FORMING A NEW COMMITTEE INTO SCHOOL SAFETY." THEN ADD A BUNCH OF SENTIMENTAL WORDS AFTER THAT. IT'S THAT SIMPLE. NOW, GET THE F*CK OFF MY PHONE.

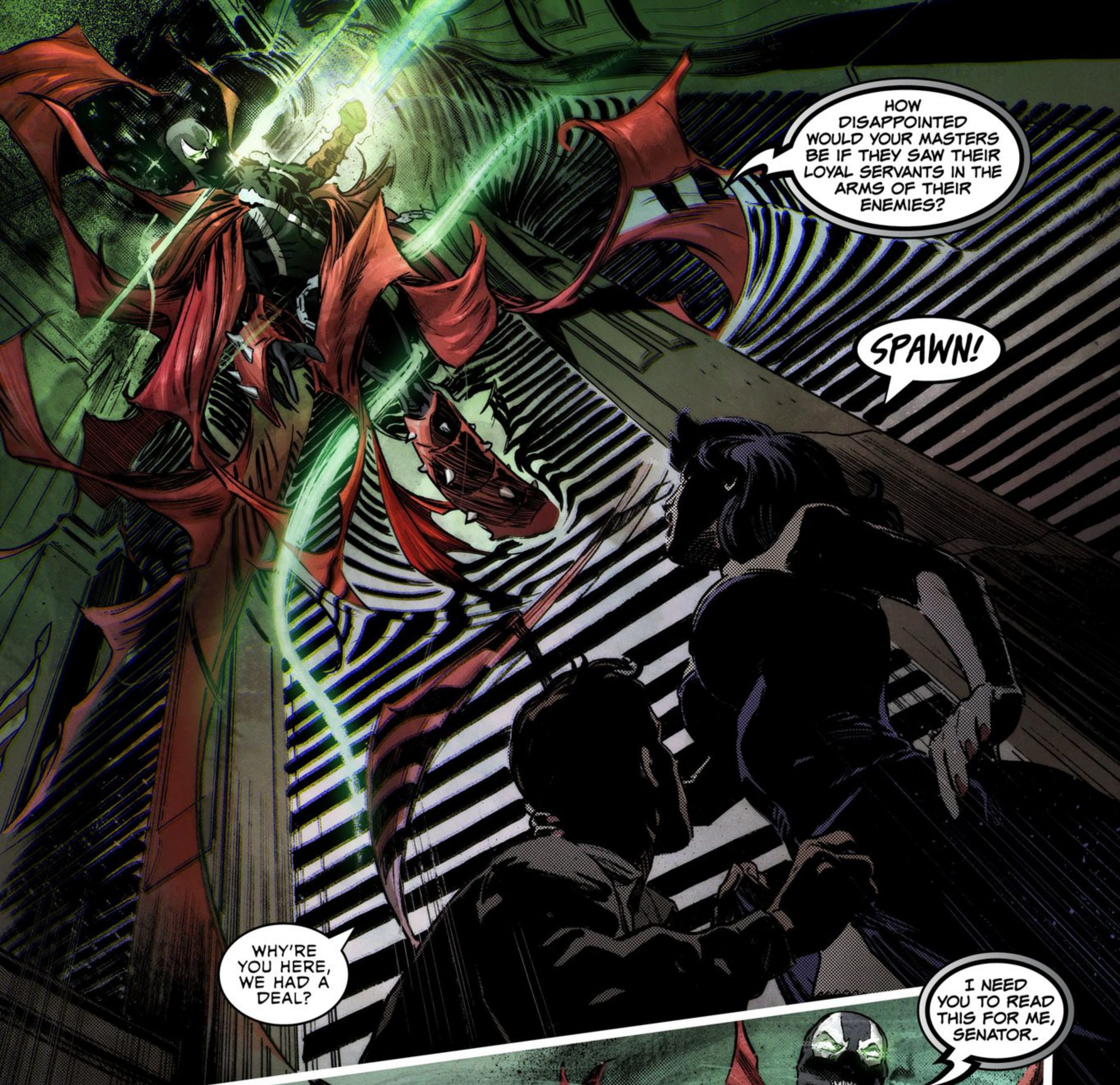
"I SWEAR TO GOD"? THAT WAS A NICE TOUCH.

GUESS I HAVE A HARD TIME FORGETTING MY ROOTS.

HEAVEN NEEDS MORE ARCHANGELS LIKE YOU MR. RAPHAEL.

I THINK YOU DESERVE A LITTLE REWARD FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

I'LL TAKE WHATEVER YOU'RE OFFERING, MISS LEVIATHAN.



HOW DISAPPOINTED WOULD YOUR MASTERS BE IF THEY SAW THEIR LOYAL SERVANTS IN THE ARMS OF THEIR ENEMIES?

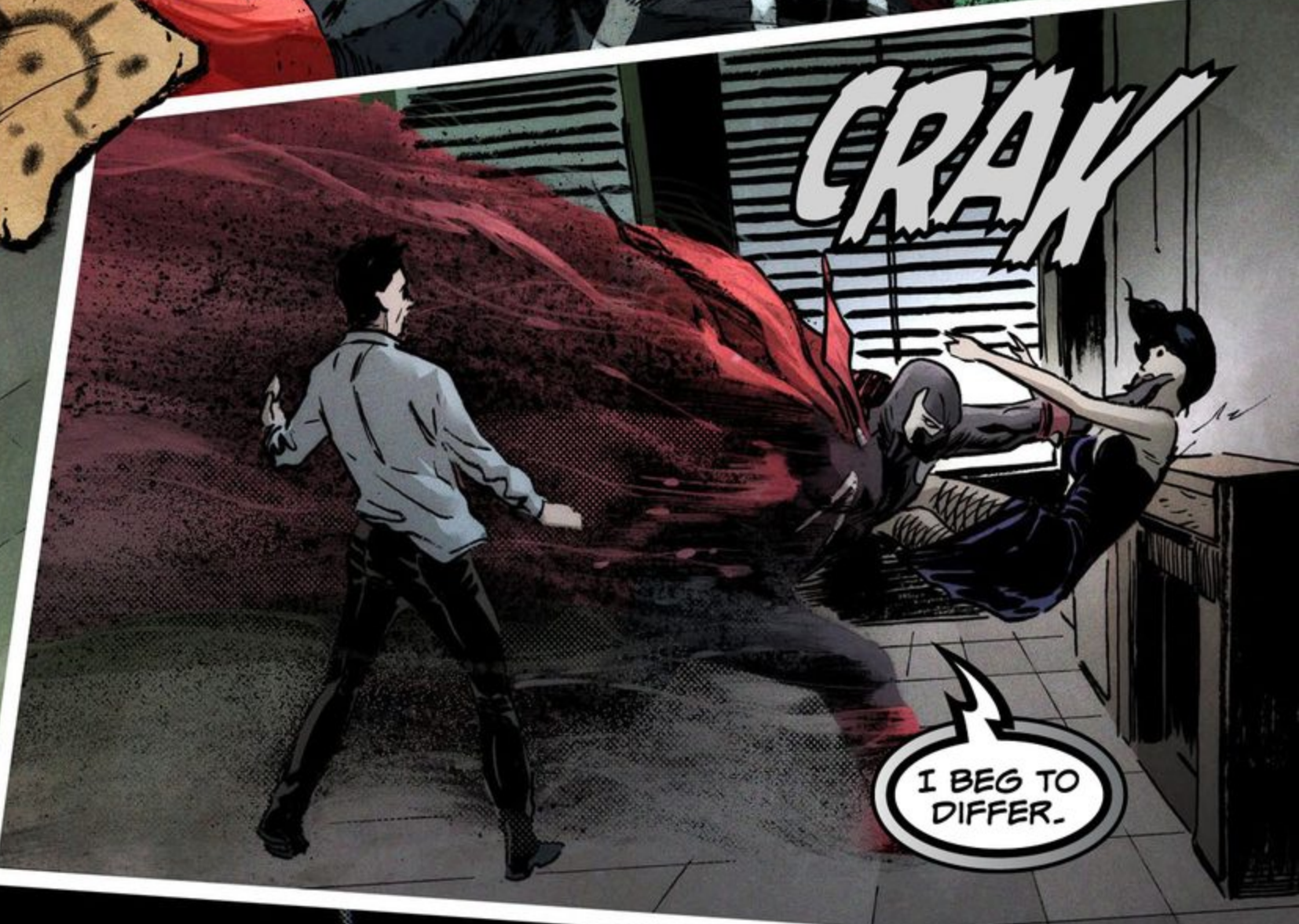
SPAWN!

WHY'RE YOU HERE, WE HAD A DEAL?

I NEED YOU TO READ THIS FOR ME, SENATOR.



DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, HE DOESN'T HAVE DOMINION HERE.



CRACK

I BEG TO DIFFER.



YOU WANT
YOUR SATANIC
MISTRESS IN ONE
PIECE--DO WHAT
I ASK.



OK! OK...
JUST LEAVE HER
ALONE. IF I DO THIS,
NO ONE FINDS OUT,
YOU DON'T SAY
A WORD.

LET'S GET
SOMETHING
STRAIGHT--THIS
ISN'T A NEGOTIATION.
I'M CALLING ALL
THE SHOTS.



NOW,
READ!



IT'S
SOME KIND OF
BLUEPRINT.

ALREADY
KNOW THAT. HOW'S
IT TIE INTO THAT
BOMBING?

IT SAYS
THERE'S A GROUP, A
TERRORIST CELL OF SOME
KIND, AND SOME FILES. BUT
THE BIGGEST PART SAYS THEY'RE
FOLLOWING THE PSALMS; 137.
ABOUT KILLING CHILDREN
TO GET THEIR GOD TO
REVEAL HIMSELF.



WHO'S
DIRECTING
THEM?



CAN'T
TELL.

YOU'RE A
BAD LIAR, PETE,
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH
THIS BEFORE. YOU'VE
GOT THREE SECONDS
TO LEVEL WITH
ME.



ONE.

TWO...



METATRON!
THAT'S WHO IT IS, IT'S
METATRON!

HE'S ON
EARTH?



WHAT?
YOU THOUGHT
ONLY WARRIORS
OR AGENTS GOT STUCK
HERE? NO...YOU **TRAPPED**
SOME HEAVY HITTERS
WHEN YOU LOCKED
THE 'DEAD
ZONES'.

IF
PROPAGANDA IS
GETTING TO PEOPLE,
ONLINE, SOCIAL
MEDIA, HE'S
DICTATING IT



ANY
CLUE WHERE
HE MIGHT
BE?



THE SIGIL
INDICATES
IT'S THE SAME
PLACE WHERE
HELL BIRTHED
YOU.

NEW
YORK..

"METATRON.
I KNOW THE
LORE."

"HE WAS BORN HUMAN BUT
SOMEHOW CONNED HIS
WAY INTO BECOMING ONE
OF GOD'S HAND-PICKED
ANGELS. THE ONLY HUMAN
TO EVER DO SO."

"HE ENDED UP LIKE I DID,
A PAWN TO BE TOYED
WITH BY HIS MASTER."



"BUT WHY NOW? IF
HE'S BEEN HERE **ALL
THIS TIME**, WHAT'S
TAKEN HIM SO LONG
TO MAKE HIS MOVE?"



"AND WHY USE
CHILDREN FOR HIS BAIT,
WHEN THERE'S PLENTY
OF ADULT TARGETS TO
CHOOSE FROM?"



"BUT HE CHOSE TO STAY AN
ANGEL, THAT'S WHERE WE
DIFFERED. HE ACTUALLY LIKED
BEING A SERVANT, BEING NEAR
GOD, AND ONE OF HIS GOALS
WAS ALWAYS TO BRING THE
HEAD OF A HELLSPAWN TO
THE ALTAR OF HIS GOD."





"AND ONCE I FIND HIM, THEN WHAT? METATRON'S VOCAL CORDS CAN DAMAGE HUMAN EARS WITH A WHISPER, DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'LL DO TO MY SYMBIOTE-COVERED EARS."



DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, SAM.

YOU THINK? JUST BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE'S HEADS USUALLY DON'T EXPLODE RANDOMLY, EVEN IF EVERY WITNESS CONFIRMED THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

AND YOU KNOW ME, I GET SKEPTICAL WHEN THINGS VEER THIS FAR FROM THE NORM.

HOW WE GOING TO HANDLE THIS, TWITCH? NOT LIKE WE'VE GOT A BAT SYMBOL OR ANYTHING.

HE'LL KNOW. DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT HE'S SOMEHOW ATTUNED TO THIS KIND OF STUFF.



"HAVEN'T CHECKED DOWN HERE IN A WHILE, NOT SINCE THEY ABANDONED THE CONSTRUCTION THAT SITS RIGHT ON TOP OF THIS 'DEAD ZONE'. THE PLAN WAS TO HIDE THIS PORTAL... EVEN IF IT'S INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE."

"I GOT DUMPED HERE WHEN MALEBOLGIA FIRST TURNED ME INTO SPAWN."

"A LIGHT? EVEN THIS SEEMS TOO OBVIOUS FOR A POMPOUS ASS LIKE METATRON."



"WHICH MAKES THIS A TRAP."



CLIK





WHAT HE SEES, STUNS
SPAWN LIKE FEW
THINGS EVER HAVE.

THE BODY OF METATRON IS
SPLATTERED EVERYWHERE,
HIS BODY LITERALLY RIPPED
LIMB FROM LIMB.

MAKING HIM JUST A PAWN
IN ALL THIS, TOO--AND
WHOEVER DID IT WANTS
TO SHOW SPAWN HOW
POWERFUL IT IS.

THE KIDS. NEW
YORK. NOW THIS.

SOMEONE IS LETTING SPAWN
KNOW THERE'S A DEBT
TO SETTLE WITH HIM. BUT
WHO--**WHO** THE HELL IS
DOING THIS?!



FEDERAL AGENTS, TODAY, RELEASED NEW INFORMATION FROM THEIR INVESTIGATION INTO THE SCHOOL BOMBING IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON LAST WEEK. THAT BOMBING KILLED SIXTEEN PEOPLE INCLUDING FOURTEEN CHILDREN AGED FIVE OR SIX YEARS OLD. THE INVESTIGATORS SAID THAT AFTER TRACING SOME OF THE CHEMICALS USED IN THAT EXPLOSION, THEY SEARCHED A RECENTLY ABANDONED APARTMENT WHERE THEY SEIZED DOZENS OF HARD DRIVES THAT ARE POTENTIALLY CONNECTED TO AN UNDERGROUND RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT CALLING ITSELF PSALMS 137.



ALLEGEDLY, POLICE FOUND BIBLICAL PASSAGES TAPED ONTO WALLS OF THE APARTMENT. AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE SAID THE BIBLE PASSAGES SEEMED TO REFERENCE CHILDREN AND MURDER. NO MOTIVES HAVE BEEN GIVEN AT THIS TIME, BUT THERE ARE GROWING CONCERNS THAT THESE TYPES OF HATE GROUPS OR CULTS, COULD HAVE MEMBERSHIPS NUMBERING IN THE HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS. WITH STRONG CELLS SPREAD ACROSS THE ENTIRE GLOBE.



"TO **CLEANSE THE EARTH...!!**

THAT'S THEIR GOAL. THEY WANT TO RID US OF THE WICKED AND THE EVIL... SOOOO, THESE *WHACK-JOBS* THINK BLOWING UP KIDS IS THE BEST WAY TO GET THAT MESSAGE ACROSS.

FRIGGIN' IDIOTS!

"WE'VE SEEN THESE KIND OF TERROR GROUPS POPPING UP ONLINE ALL OVER THE WORLD. AND NOW WE HAVE POSSIBLE HOMEGROWN ISIS WANNABES IN OUR OWN BACKYARD. ONES THAT WANT YOUR KIDS. I DON'T SHY AWAY FROM THE DARK STUFF VIEWERS, I'M HERE FOR THE TRUTH. AND THE TRUTH IS MY GUNS ARE **LOCKED AND LOADED!** I HOPE THEY TRY COMING FOR *MY* CHILDREN!"



TWO HUNDRED
MILES NORTH
OF BROOKLYN.

GOD TOLD
US THAT HE WOULD
KILL THE FIRSTBORN
SONS OF EGYPT. THAT
HIS WAS THE WAY OF
RIGHTESOUSNESS.

IN LEVITICUS
HE SAYS: EAT THE
FLESH OF YOUR
SONS

AND IN
PSALMS: 137 THE
LORD IMPLORES
US TO DO
WHAT?

**SMASH
THE HEADS OF
THE LITTLE
ONES!**

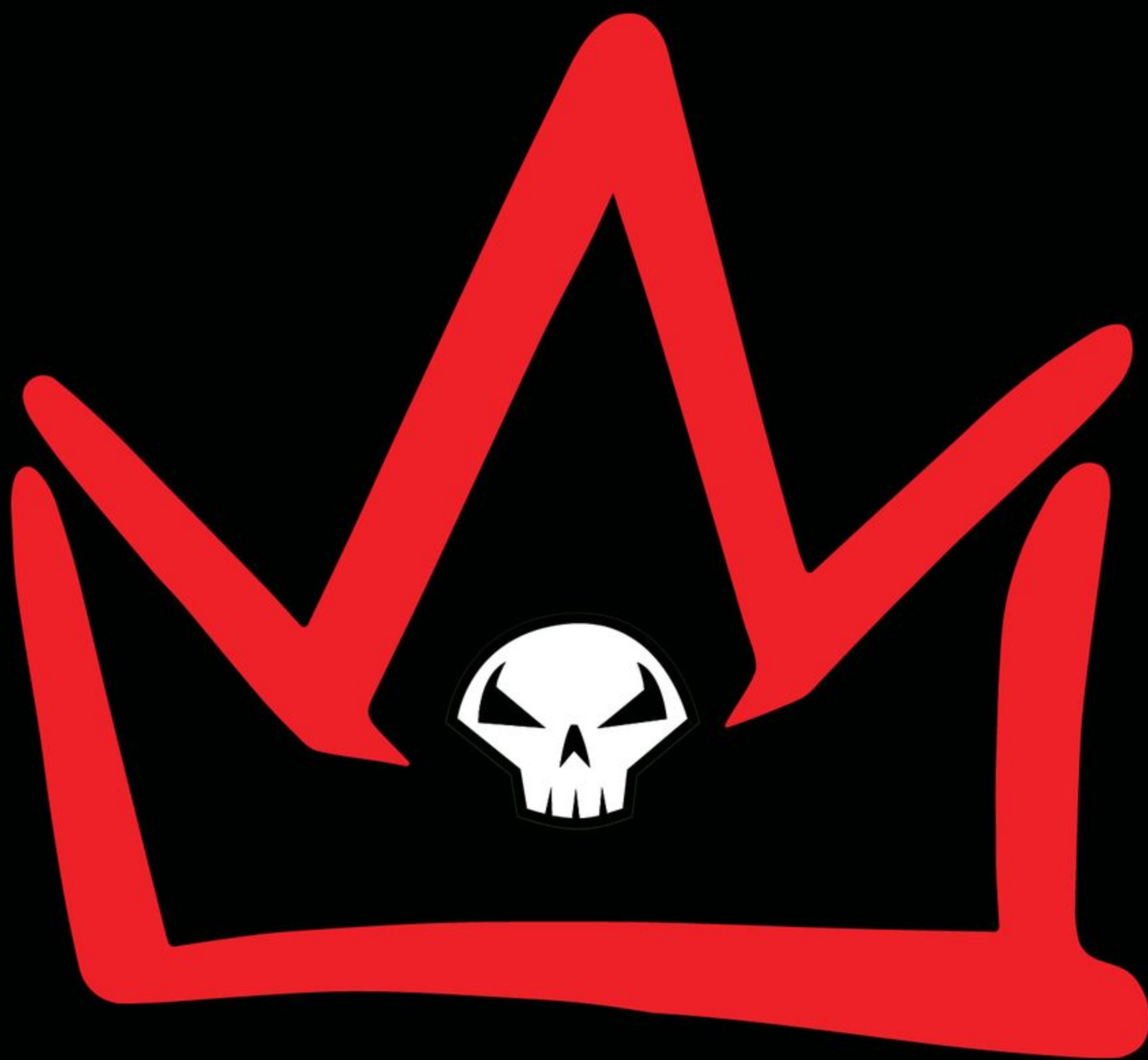
PRECISELY.



AND SO, MY
FLOCK, WE'LL LEAVE
A PILE OF BODIES SO
HIGH, THE ENTIRE WORLD
WILL MOURN. THAT'S WHEN
HE'LL COME--WHEN OUR
KING WILL REVEAL
HIMSELF.

AND
WE SHALL
DELIVER HIM ALL
THE GLORY... AND **ALL**
THE PUNISHMENT--
HE SO RICHLY
DESERVES!

ALL HAIL
**KING
SPAWN!**





“Haunt”

FOR FIVE WEEKS, DANIEL KILGORE HAS ATTEMPTED TO LIVE WHAT OTHERS CALL "A NORMAL LIFE." IT WASN'T PLANNED, BUT SOMETHING SPARKED INSIDE HIM THE MOMENT HE MET LYDIA.

I WISH THE WEATHER STAYED LIKE THIS EVERY DAY.

ME TOO.

BUT, WHEN IT'S CRAPPY OUT, IT'LL REMIND US HOW GLORIOUS TODAY WAS.

GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

YOU GETTING HUNGRY? WE CAN GO GRAB A BITE TO EAT IF YOU WANT.

HOW ABOUT I COOK FOR YOU AT YOUR PLACE?

YOU COOK? SINCE WHEN?

ARE YOU DOUBTING MY SKILLS?

DON'T KNOW, HAVEN'T TASTED ANYTHING YET.

SERIOUSLY? MY FALAFEL IS WORLD FAMOUS; YOU JERK.

HEY!... STOP TICKLING.

NOT 'TIL YOU APOLOGIZE!

LYDIA HAD COME INTO HIS LIFE JUST WHEN HE NEEDED SOMETHING POSITIVE TO GRASP ONTO, AND SHE LITERALLY MADE HIM FEEL 'DIFFERENT.'

BUT THE FACT DANIEL CAN'T SHARE HIS SECRETS WITH HER IS THE ONLY THING THAT STILL BOTHERS HIM.

IT SMELLS GOOD, LYDIA.

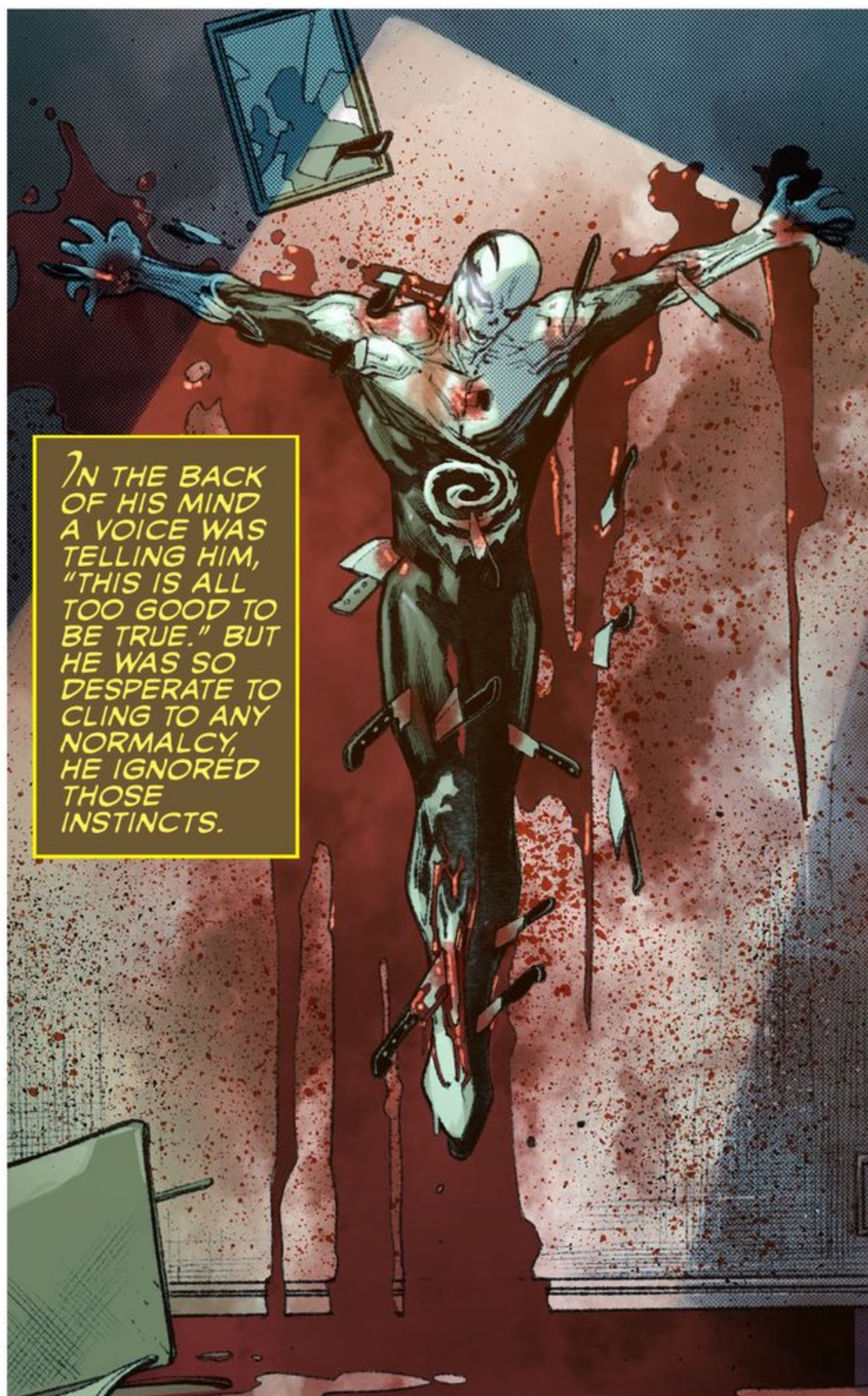
THANKS. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER KNIVES I CAN USE?

SURE, THERE'S A WHOLE DRAWER FULL NEXT TO THE SINK.

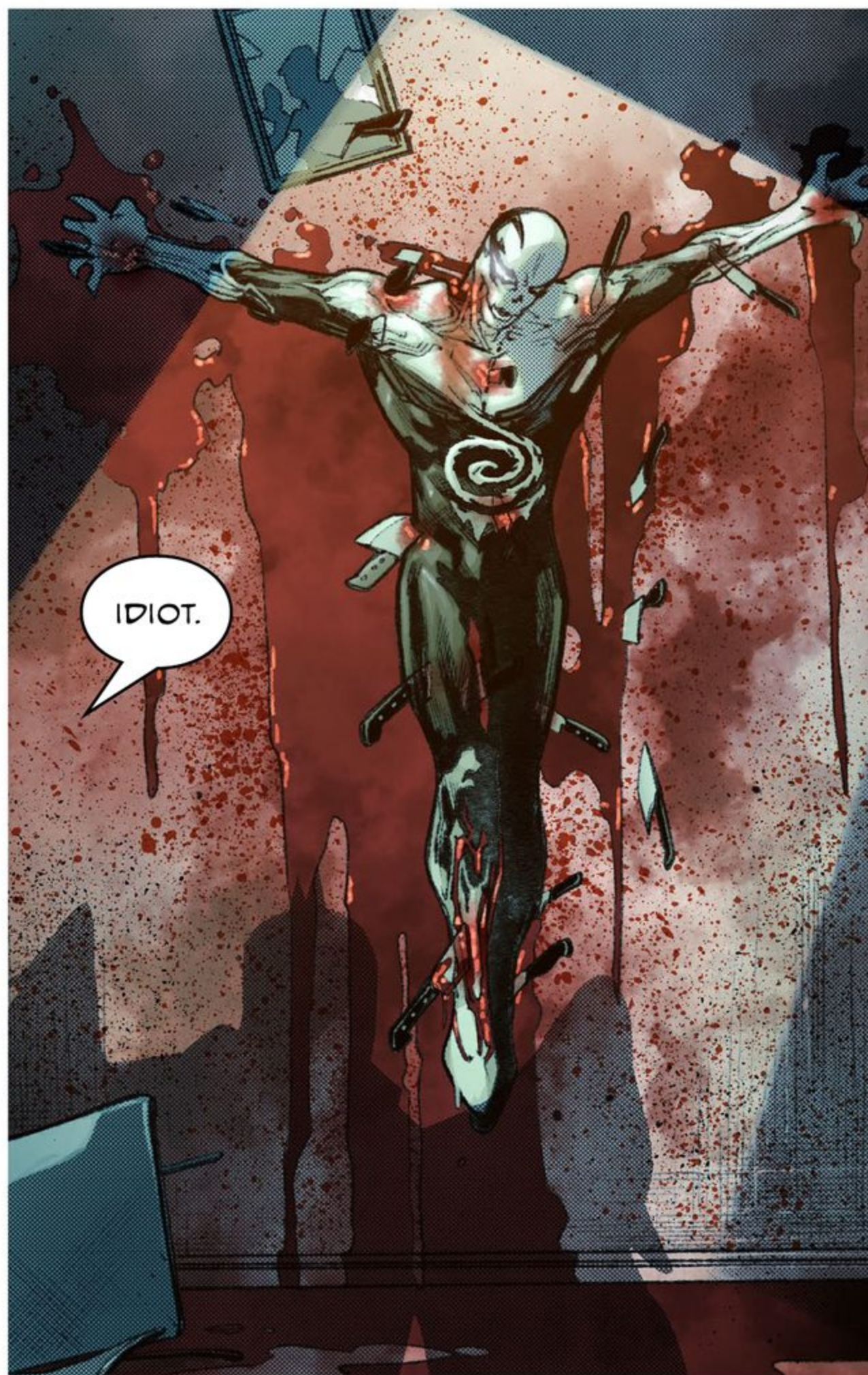
AS THE HOURS
NOW TICK BY...

ANY SENSE OF
DANIEL HAVING
A "NORMAL
LIFE" HAS BEEN
SHATTERED
BEYOND REPAIR.





IN THE BACK OF HIS MIND A VOICE WAS TELLING HIM, "THIS IS ALL TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE." BUT HE WAS SO DESPERATE TO CLING TO ANY NORMALCY, HE IGNORED THOSE INSTINCTS.

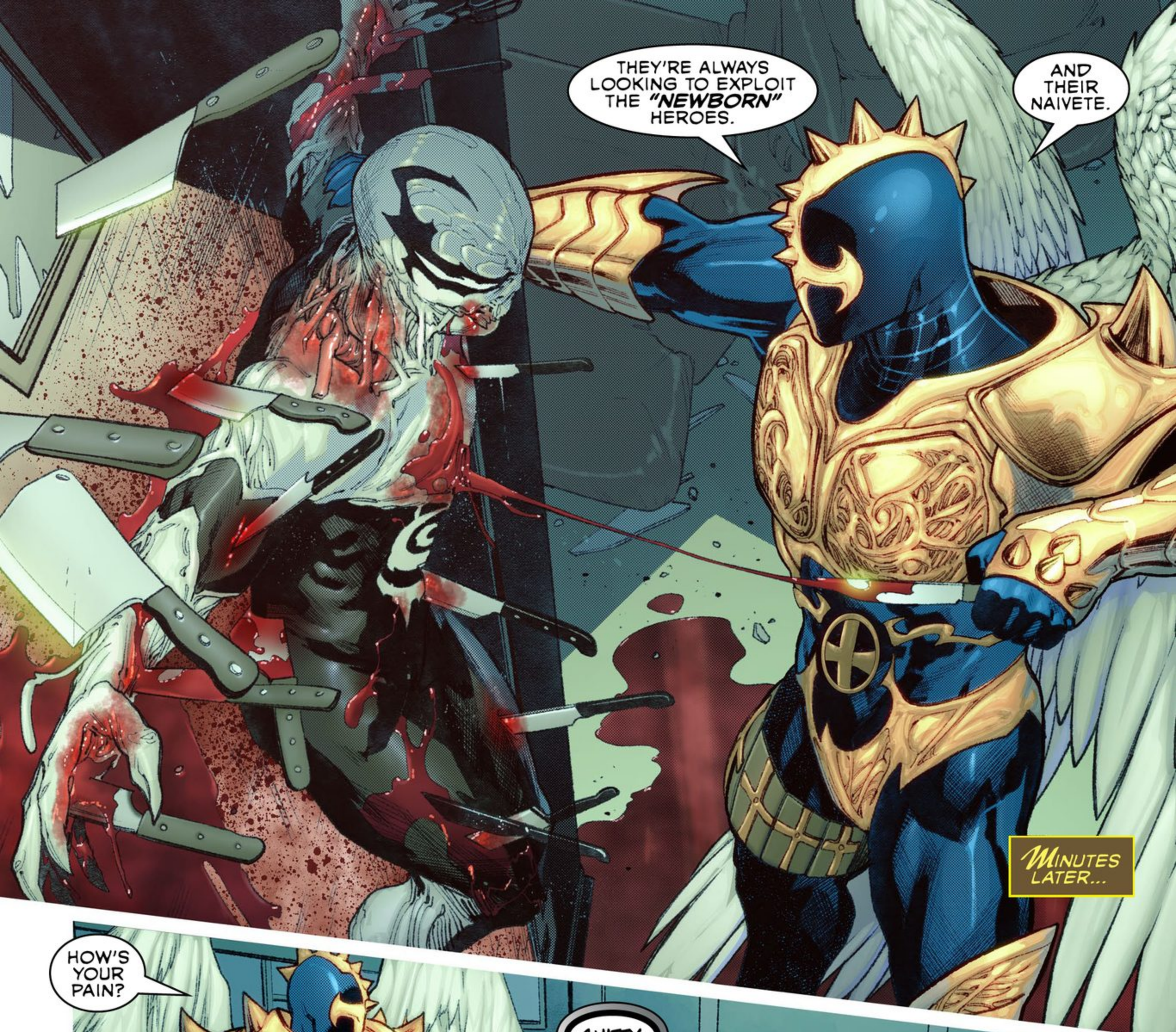


IDIOT.



shup

THEY KNEW YOU'D FALL INTO THEIR TRAP.



THEY'RE ALWAYS
LOOKING TO EXPLOIT
THE "NEWBORN"
HEROES.

AND
THEIR
NAIVETE.

MINUTES
LATER...

HOW'S
YOUR
PAIN?

SHITTY.

YOU'RE
STILL LOSING
BLOOD. THAT
NEEDS TO
STOP.

ANGELIC RAYS
PULSATE TOWARDS
THE HERO CALLED
HAUNT.



LYDIA...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE SHE
WAS ONE OF
THEM.



IT'S THEIR OLDEST TRICK-- PREY ON EMOTIONS. THEY'LL BETRAY OUR LOGIC EVERY TIME. BUT IT TAKES THEM AWHILE TO DULL OUR SENSES. HOW LONG WAS SHE AROUND YOU?

ABOUT A MONTH.



GOOD. THEY DIDN'T GET ALL THEY NEEDED THEN, OTHERWISE YOU'D BE DEAD. BUT THEY'LL BE BACK.

WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?



IT'S NOT HER. IT'S THEM. **ALL OF THEM!** YOU'RE A HALF-BREED TO **BOTH** SIDES. PART LIGHT. PART DARKNESS...JUST LIKE YOUR COSTUME.

NEITHER HEAVEN NOR HELL WILL EVER TRUST YOU. THEY'LL ALWAYS THINK YOUR ALIGNED WITH THE OTHER SIDE. THAT PUTS YOU IN A BAD SPOT.

THERE-- YOUR BLEEDING HAS STOPPED.



AND WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?



I DON'T HAVE A SIDE ANYMORE.



THEY EACH
OF THEM **TOOK**
SOMETHING FROM
ME TO PROVE
THEIR POINT.

SO,
PREPARE
YOURSELF, ANYONE
WHO BEARS THAT
SYMBOL ON YOUR
COSTUME'S CHEST...
SCARES THEM.

THAT'S
WHY THEY'VE
INFECTED IT--
YOUR COSTUME,
BEGINNING TODAY,
IS GOING TO
SLOWLY POISON
YOU.



WHY ARE
YOU DOING
THIS FOR
ME?

BECAUSE
OF YOUR BROTHER.
IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM,
I'D TRULY BE BLIND. I
PROMISED I'D REPAY HIS
FAVOR. NEXT TIME
YOU SEE HIM...



TELL HIM
WE'RE
EVEN.

AS THE EVENING
PASSES, DANIEL
IS VISITED BY
HIS DEAD
BROTHER KURT.

YOU HEARD
EVERYTHING?



I DID.
AND I'VE
NEVER MET
THAT GUY. I'D
REMEMBER
THAT.



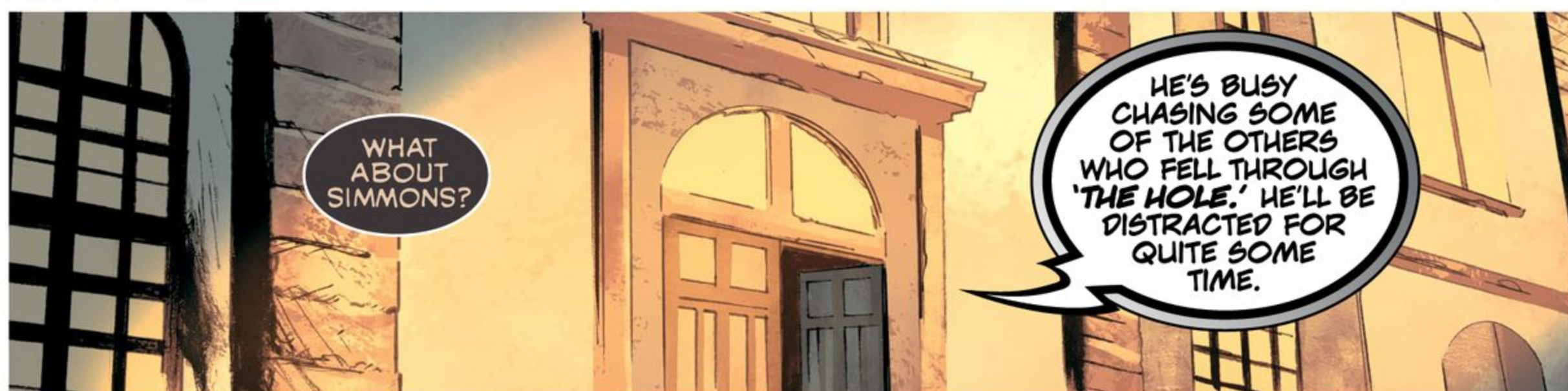


“Nightmare”



ARE THE HUMANS AWARE OF YOUR PRESENCE YET?

NO. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE OUR MISSION FORWARD UNDETECTED.



WHAT ABOUT SIMMONS?

HE'S BUSY CHASING SOME OF THE OTHERS WHO FELL THROUGH 'THE HOLE.' HE'LL BE DISTRACTED FOR QUITE SOME TIME.



WE'LL NEED HIM SOON. WHAT IF THEY KILL HIM BEFORE THEN?

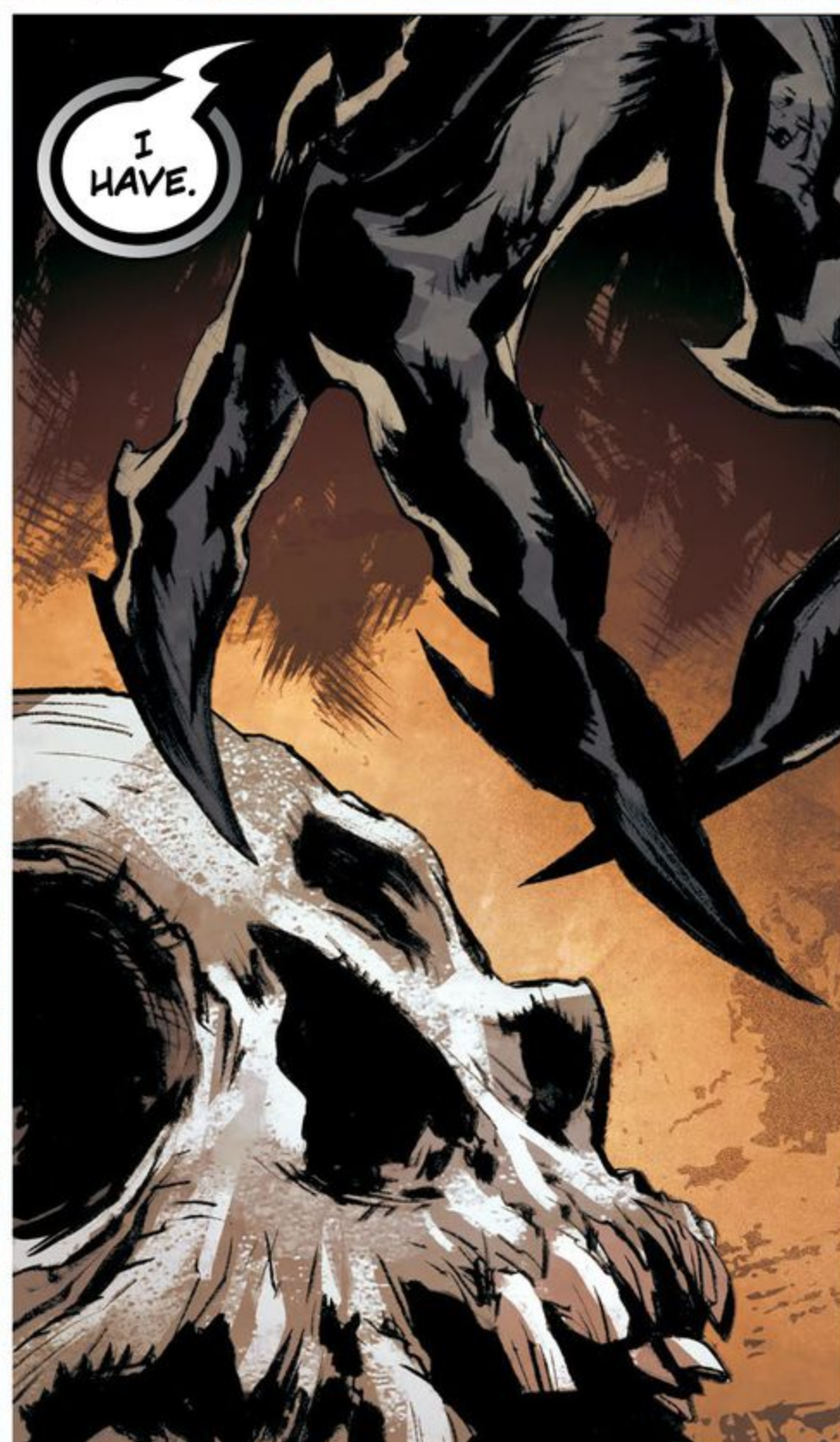
THAT'S UNLIKELY. THERE'S A HANDFUL OF OTHER HELL-SPAWNS TRYING TO PROTECT HIM.



AND YOU? YOU'RE MEETING THAT GOAL TOO?



THUNK



I HAVE.



WE'LL
BE REUNITED
SOON ENOUGH,
BROTHER,
AND I'LL BRING
OUR ARMY
WITH ME.

AND THE
ANGELS--MOST
OF THEM HAVE GONE
SOFT, SO IT HASN'T BEEN
MUCH OF AN EFFORT.
IT'S TOO BAD YOU CAN'T
SEE WHAT I'VE DONE
TO SO MANY OF
THEM.

IF WHAT
I'VE SEEN
IS ANY INDICATION,
IT'LL BE A BLOODBATH.
THESE AGENTS OF GOD
SEEM UNPREPARED OR
DISINTERESTED IN THIS
WAR. AT LEAST A
LARGE PORTION
ARE.



WHAT
DO YOU THINK
HAPPENED TO
THEM?

COMPLACENCY.
THE SAME SIN THAT'S
ALWAYS HELD BACK
THE HUMANS.

SADLY,
SOME WHO
SERVED ME ALSO
FELL PREY TO THAT
COMPLACENCY.
I'M ACTUALLY
ENTERTAINING TWO
OF THEM RIGHT
NOW.

THEN I
WON'T RUIN
YOUR EVENING,
DEAR BROTHER,
BECAUSE THOSE OF
US LOCKED HERE IN
HELL CAN'T WAIT
TO FOLLOW YOUR
COMMANDS.



DID YOU
HEAR
THAT?!

SOME ARE
STILL LOYAL
TO OUR
CAUSE!



BUT
NOT YOU.
I DISAPPEAR
FOR A WHILE
AND YOU IGNORE
THE MISSION AND
THE ORDERS
I GAVE YOU.
WHY?



SO, YOU
COULD HAVE
A FANCY CAR AND
DIAMOND JEWELRY?
IS THAT ALL IT TOOK
TO WANT TO BE LIKE
THE HUMANS?
TO **ABANDON**
ME?!





BECAUSE
I CAN EXTRACT
YOUR BLACK SOUL
AND MAKE IT OOZE
DOWN YOUR
BODY.



THEN
SCOOP
MAGGOTS
FROM
THE ROTTING
CARCASS OF
OTHER TRAITORS
SO YOU CAN
TASTE THE SWEET
NECTAR OF
BETRAYAL.



AND BEFORE
YOU DIE, TAKE
SOLACE. YOU'RE NOT
ALONE. OTHERS LIKE YOU
HAVE ALSO LOST
THEIR WAY.

THEY'VE
BEEN
INVITED TO
THIS
GATHERING
TOO.



OH MY
GOD, THIS IS LIKE
SO AWESOME! I CAN'T
BELIEVE SO MANY
OF US WON THAT
CONTEST.



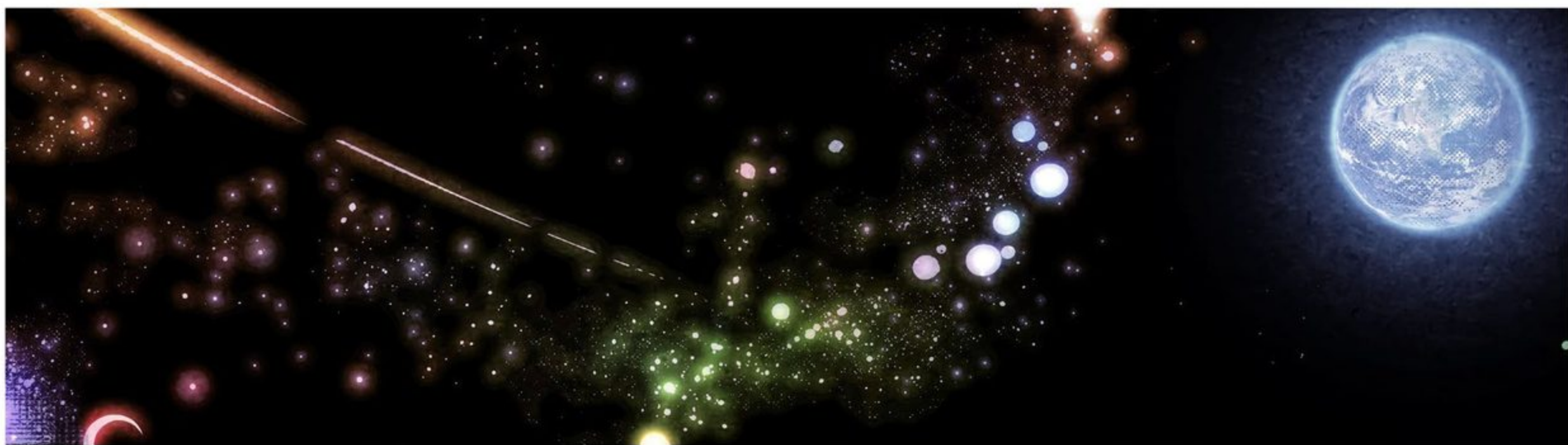
AND
FROM SO
MANY DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES. THIS
IS GOING TO BE
A WICKED
PARTY.



AND NOW,
IT'S TIME TO
FEED MY OTHER
GUEST.



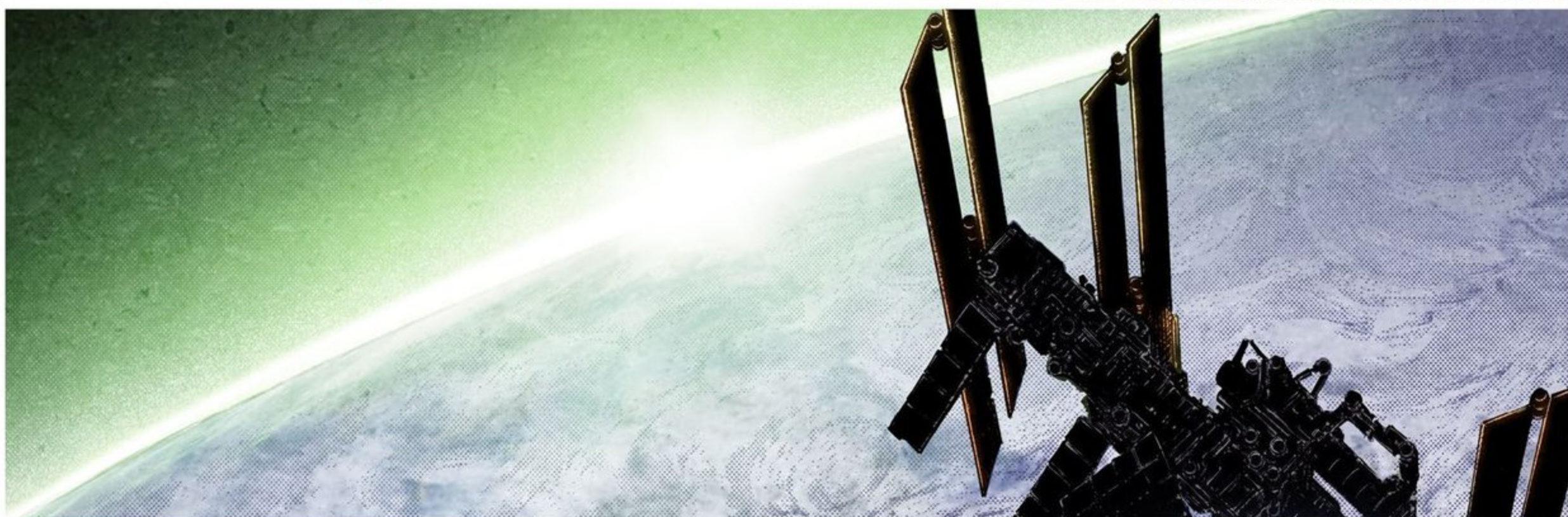
“The Hero”



THREE MONTHS AGO.

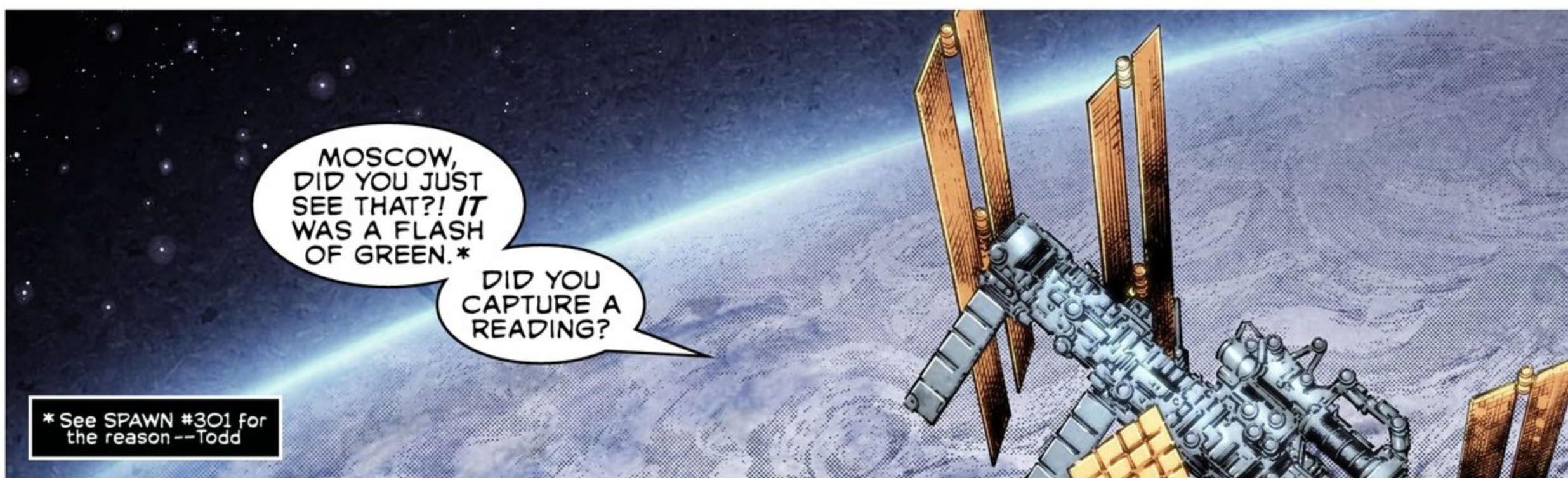


TWO COSMONAUTS ABOARD RUSSIAN SATELLITE RX-2976.



MOSCOW, DID YOU JUST SEE THAT?! IT WAS A FLASH OF GREEN.*

DID YOU CAPTURE A READING?



* See SPAWN #301 for the reason--Todd

FALLOUT FROM THAT MOMENT WILL CONTINUE TO REVEAL ITSELF TO THE WORLD FOR YEARS TO COME. THOUGH SOME OF ITS EFFECTS ARE MORE IMMEDIATE.

I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, ALEX, BUT MY JOB IS TO MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR MOM ARE SAFE.

IS THAT WHY MOM LEFT?

WHAT YOUR MOM AND I DO IS NOT YOUR BUSINESS, SON.

I DON'T WANT TO GO, I WANT TO BE WITH MOMMY.

I'M NOT ARGUING WITH YOU. WE LEAVE FRIDAY, YOU HAVE TWO DAYS TO PACK YOUR THINGS.

BUT NOW, DADDY HAS TO GET BACK TO WORK.

I **HATE** YOU! AND YOU **ALWAYS** MAKE MOMMY CRY!

ALEX'S FATHER WILL NOT BE DISRESPECTED IN FRONT OF HIS PEERS.

GET HIM OUT OF HERE, **NOW!**

DAMN KID DOESN'T KNOW I'M SAVING HIS ASS!

THE OTHER CARTEL'S THREATS NEED TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY; WE NEED TO PROTECT OURSELVES. LET'S GET BACK TO OUR MEETING.

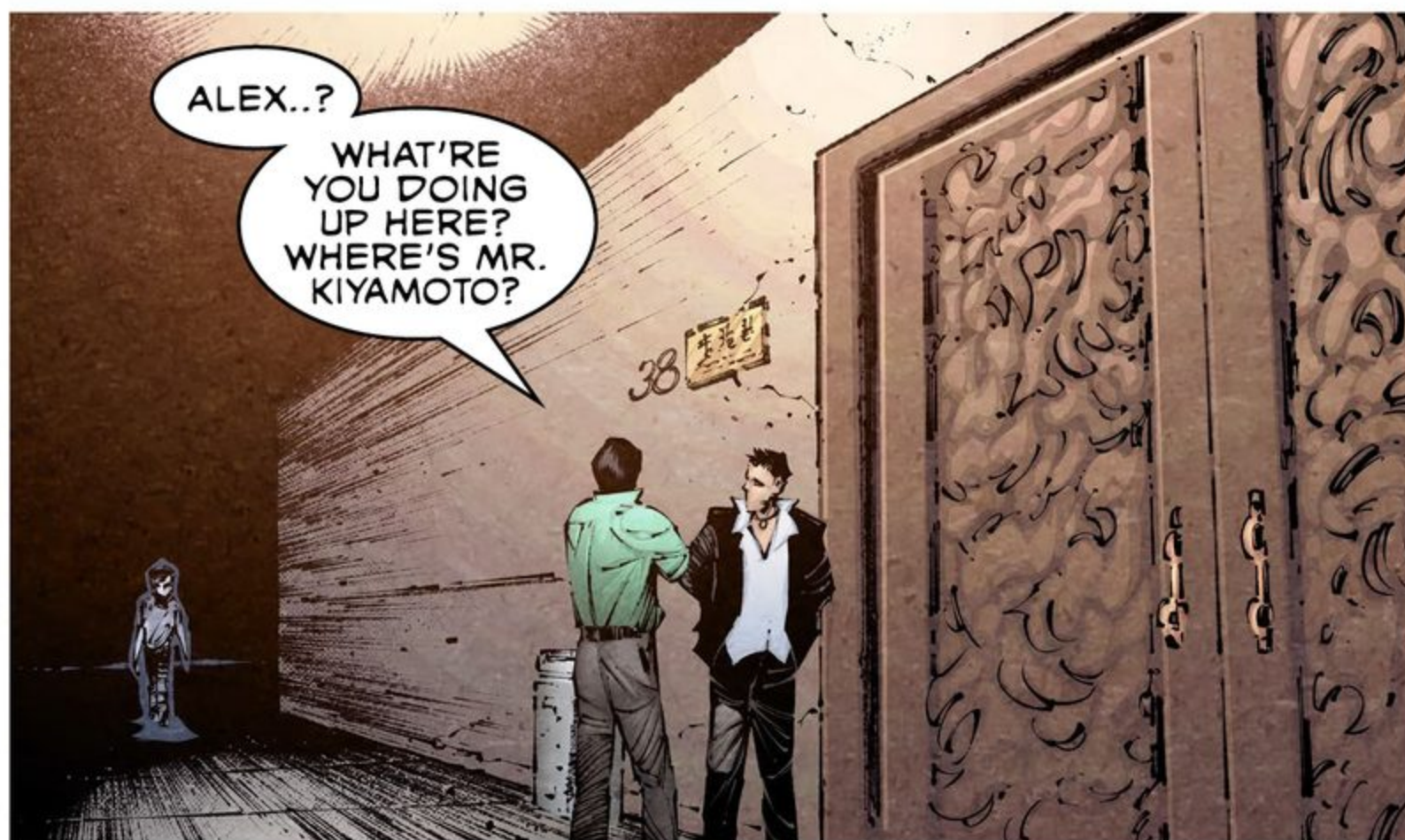
TELL KIYAMOTO HE'S GOT BABYSITTING DUTIES.

HOURS PASS AS
THAT MEETING
CONTINUES. THEN...



ALEX..?

WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
UP HERE?
WHERE'S MR.
KIYAMOTO?



JESUS!
GET DOWN
THERE--CHECK
WHAT'S
HAPPENED!

ON
IT!

I THINK
HE'S
DEAD.



MY
HEAD
HURTS.



I NEED
YOU TO STAY
HERE, I'M
GOING TO TELL
YOUR FATHER
WHAT...



KWAMM



TERRIFIED, THE BOY
CRASHES INTO HIS
FATHER'S OFFICE.

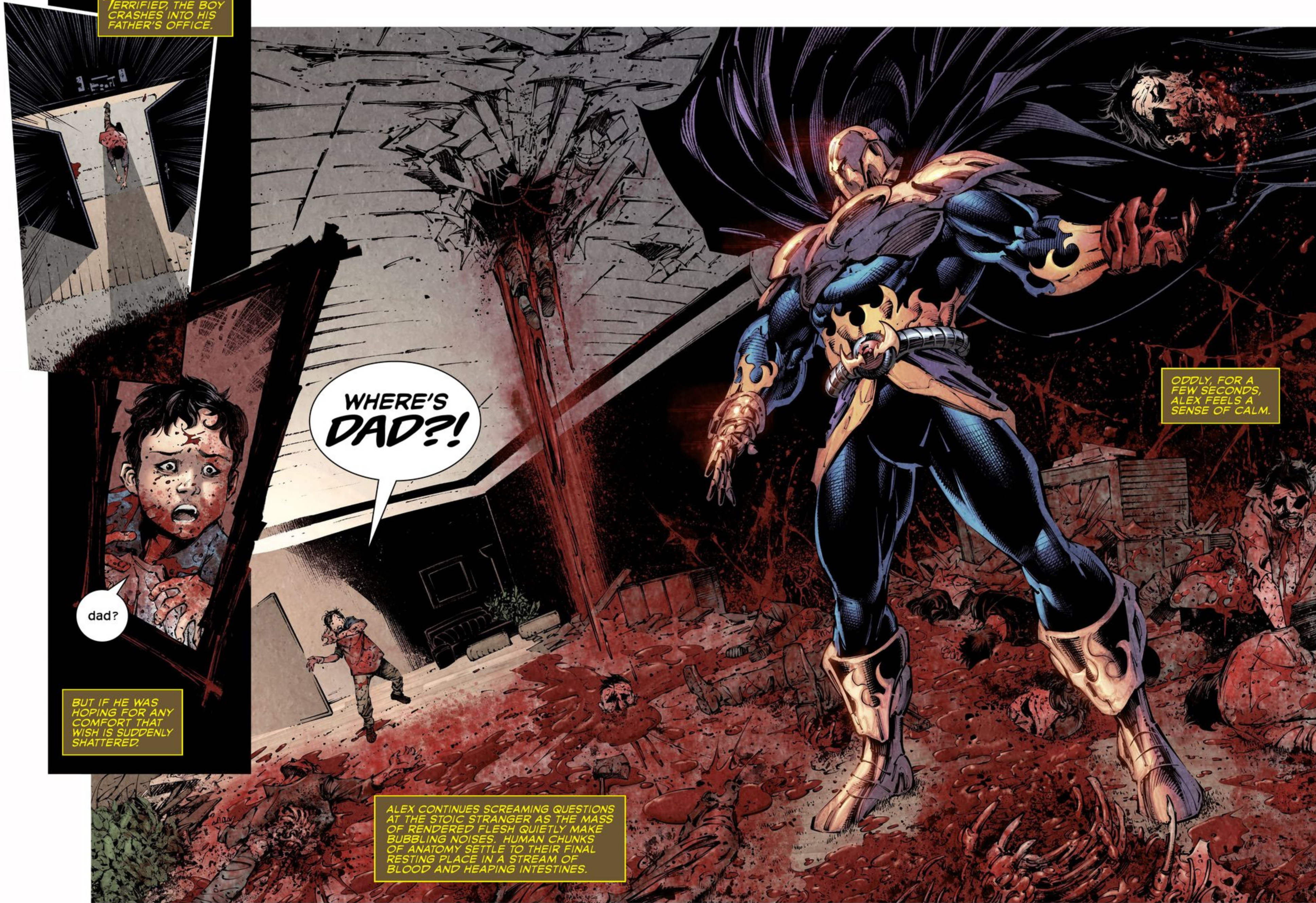
WHERE'S
DAD?!

ODDLY, FOR A
FEW SECONDS,
ALEX FEELS A
SENSE OF CALM.

dad?

BUT IF HE WAS
HOPING FOR ANY
COMFORT THAT
WISH IS SUDDENLY
SHATTERED.

ALEX CONTINUES SCREAMING QUESTIONS
AT THE STOIC STRANGER AS THE MASS
OF RENDERED FLESH QUIETLY MAKE
BUBBLING NOISES. HUMAN CHUNKS
OF ANATOMY SETTLE TO THEIR FINAL
RESTING PLACE IN A STREAM OF
BLOOD AND HEAPING INTESTINES.

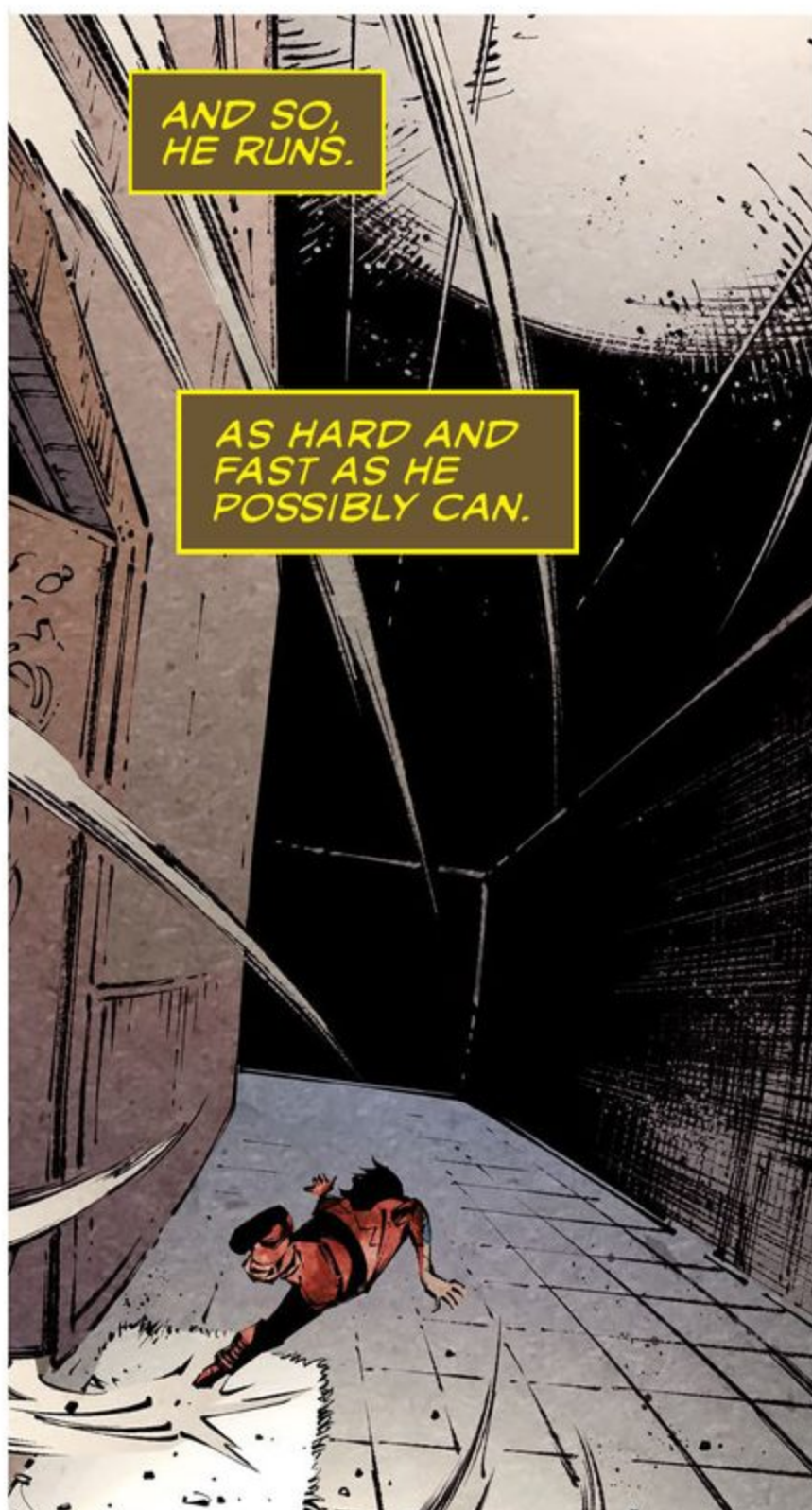
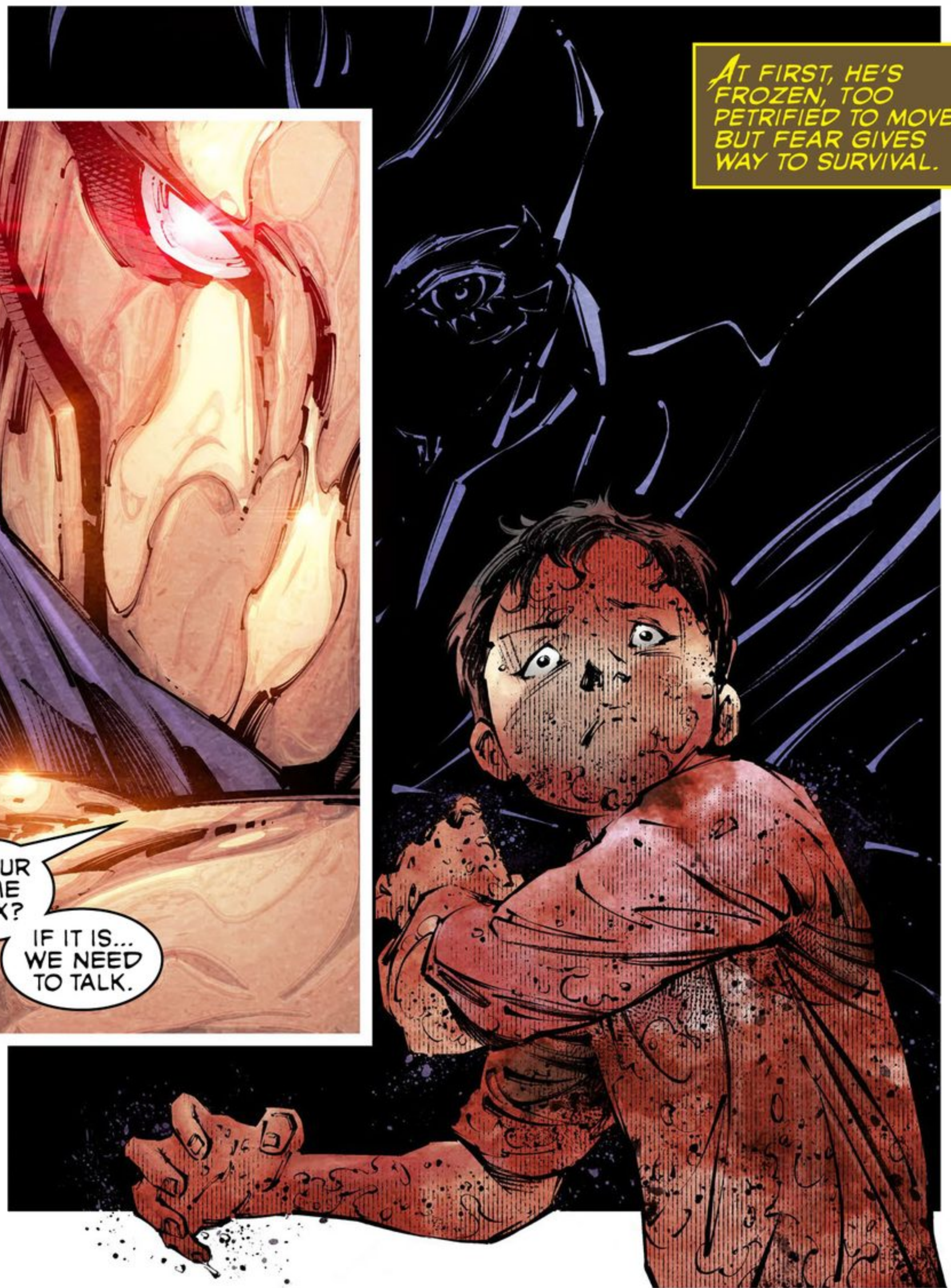




IS YOUR
NAME
ALEX?

IF IT IS...
WE NEED
TO TALK.

AT FIRST, HE'S
FROZEN, TOO
PETRIFIED TO MOVE,
BUT FEAR GIVES
WAY TO SURVIVAL.



AND SO,
HE RUNS.

AS HARD AND
FAST AS HE
POSSIBLY CAN.



BUT THE BUILDING
IS SO MASSIVE,
WITH DOZENS OF
HALLWAYS CREATING
A MAZE, HE REALLY
DOESN'T KNOW
WHICH DIRECTION
TO TURN NEXT.



ONLY ONE GOAL
REMAINS CLEAR;
THAT'S TO ESCAPE!

THOUGH, IT SEEMS THAT MAY BE A FUTILE ATTEMPT AS THE COSTUMED PRESENCE IS SUDDENLY BLOCKING HIS PATH. ALEX COLLAPSES AND EMOTIONALLY BREAKS DOWN.



WHY'D YOU... HAVE TO KILL EVERYONE.



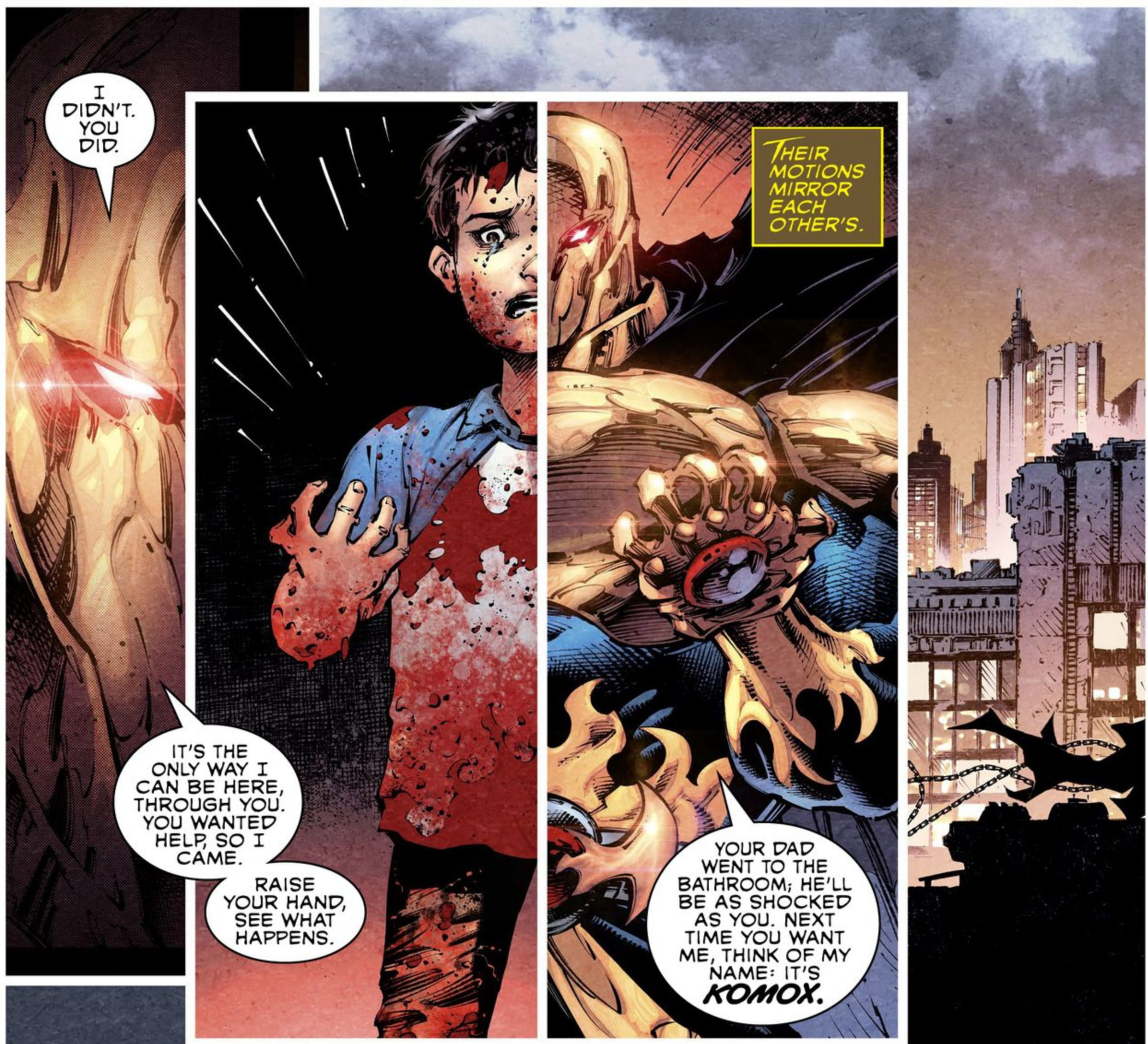
NOT EVERYONE, NOT YOUR DAD.

DAD'S ALIVE?!

HE IS. JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.



BUT YOU KILLED THE OTHERS?



I DIDN'T.
YOU DID.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN BE HERE, THROUGH YOU. YOU WANTED HELP, SO I CAME.

RAISE YOUR HAND, SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

THEIR MOTIONS MIRROR EACH OTHER'S.

YOUR DAD WENT TO THE BATHROOM; HE'LL BE AS SHOCKED AS YOU. NEXT TIME YOU WANT ME, THINK OF MY NAME: IT'S **KOMOX.**



OH MY GOD, ALEX!? ARE YOU OKAY, WHAT HAPPENED?

IT WASN'T ME, DAD, I PROMISE, IT WAS HIM.

BUT THE ROOM IS NOW DEATHLY QUIET.

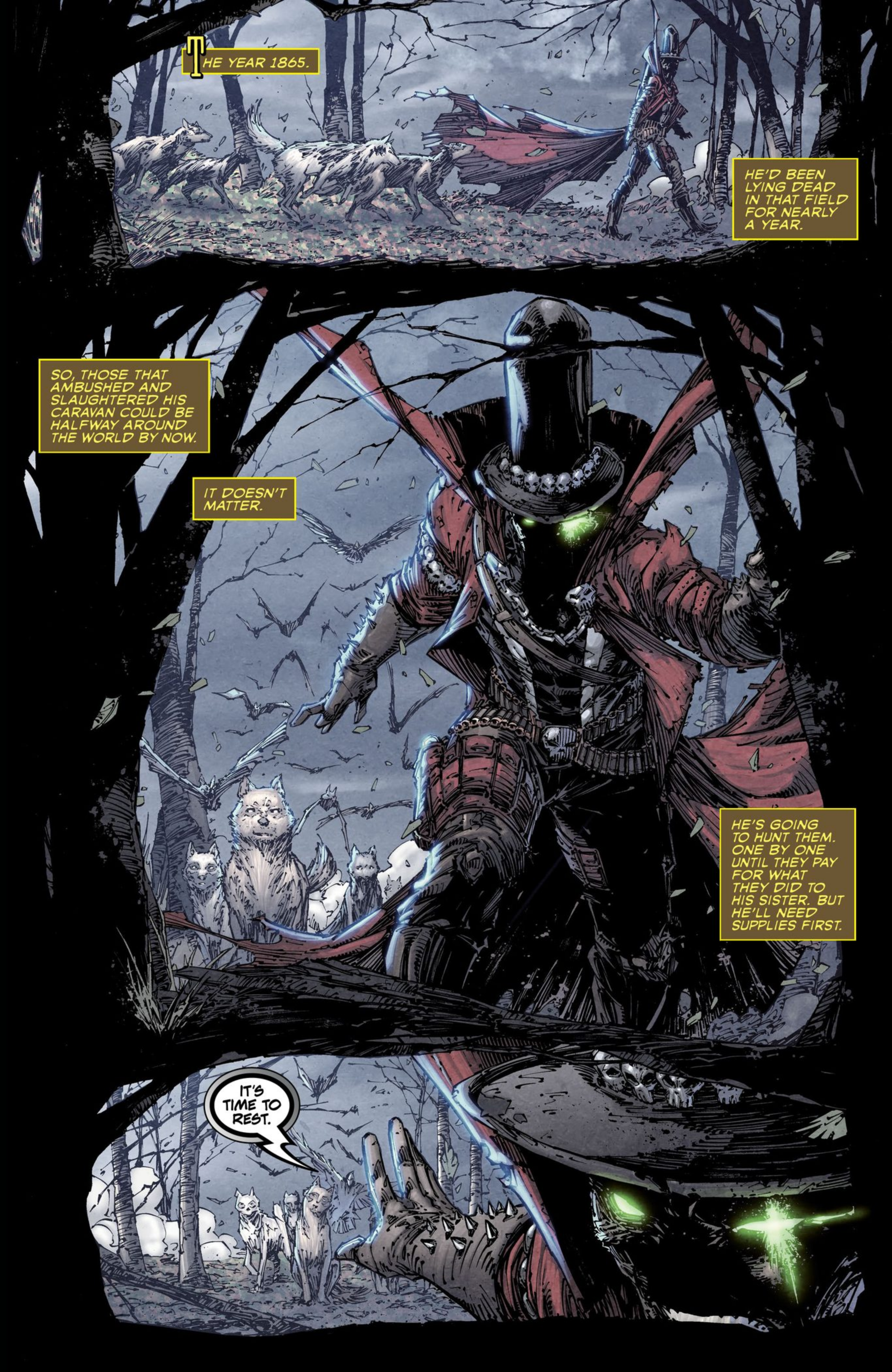


THE END...FOR NOW.





“Gunslinger”



THE YEAR 1865.

HE'D BEEN
LYING DEAD
IN THAT FIELD
FOR NEARLY
A YEAR.

SO, THOSE THAT
AMBUSHED AND
SLAUGHTERED HIS
CARAVAN COULD BE
HALFWAY AROUND
THE WORLD BY NOW.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

HE'S GOING
TO HUNT THEM.
ONE BY ONE
UNTIL THEY PAY
FOR WHAT
THEY DID TO
HIS SISTER. BUT
HE'LL NEED
SUPPLIES FIRST.

IT'S
TIME TO
REST.

AS THEY SETTLE FOR THE NIGHT,
FLASHES OF THE AMBUSH EXPLODE
IN HIS MIND. HIS ENEMIES, THEY
EACH TOOK A TURN.

THEY
SHOT HIM.

SLIT HIS
THROAT.

IMPALED HIM.

THEN
HANGED HIM.

AND THEIR
CROWNING TOUCH
WAS PEELING HIS
FACE OFF.



THIS
IS THE
PLACE.
DIG.



THEIR BRUTAL
ATTACK ON
HIM WAS
REVENGE FOR
HIM INTER-
FERING IN
THEIR SADISTIC
PLANS.



GUNSLINGER
WAS SEEKING
TO PROTECT
HIS SISTER,
AMY, NOTHING
ELSE.

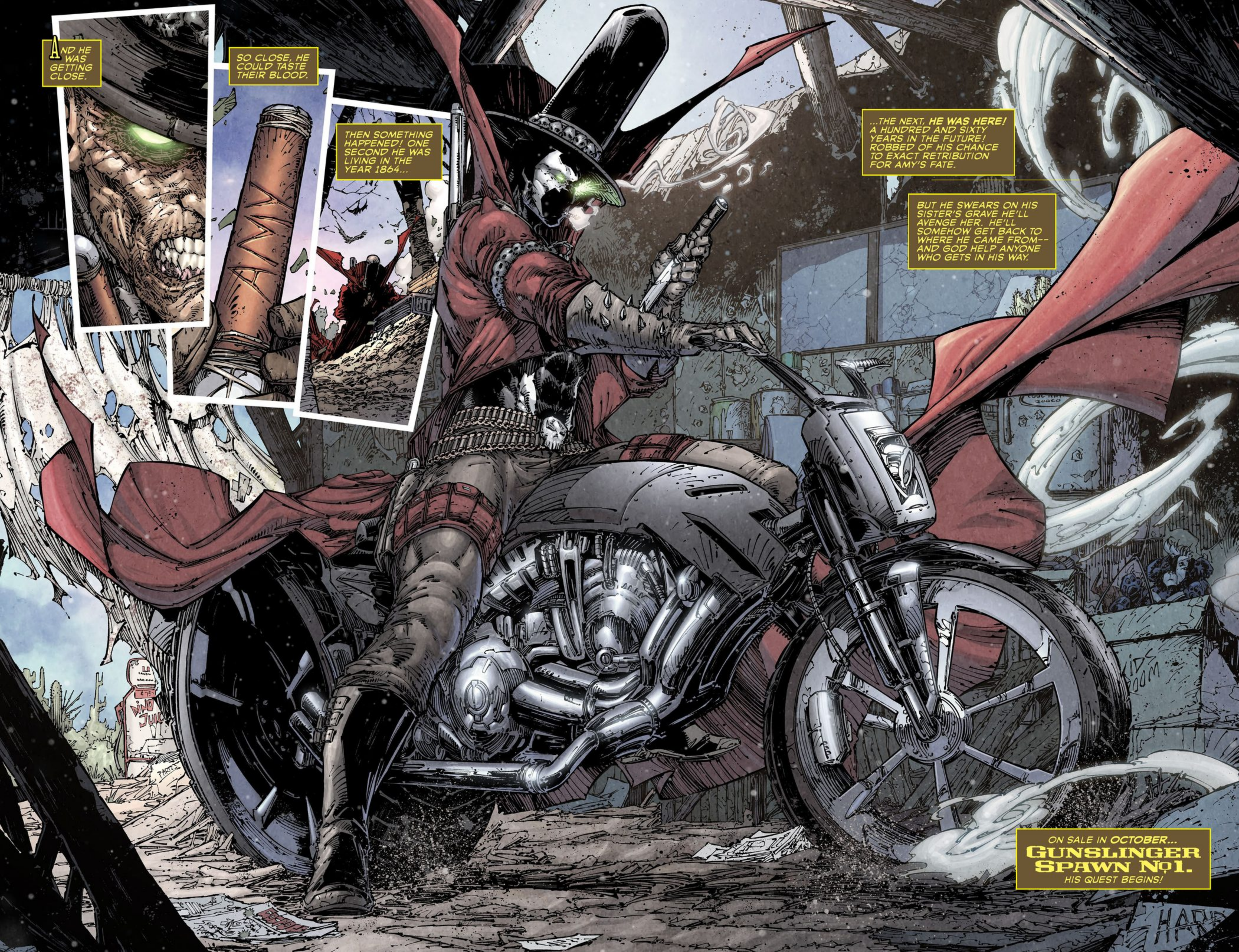
BUT THINGS GOT
COMPLETELY OUT
OF CONTROL.



THAT'S WHY
THEY CAME AFTER
HIM. THEY WANTED
REVENGE JUST AS
BADLY AS
GUNSLINGER DID.

WELL, THEY GOT THEIR SHOT.
NOW IT WAS HIS TURN.





AND HE
WAS
GETTING
CLOSE.

SO CLOSE, HE
COULD TASTE
THEIR BLOOD.

THEN SOMETHING
HAPPENED! ONE
SECOND HE WAS
LIVING IN THE
YEAR 1864...

...THE NEXT, HE WAS HERE!
A HUNDRED AND SIXTY
YEARS IN THE FUTURE!
ROBBED OF HIS CHANCE
TO EXACT RETRIBUTION
FOR AMY'S FATE.

BUT HE SWEARS ON HIS
SISTER'S GRAVE HE'LL
AVENGE HER. HE'LL
SOMEHOW GET BACK TO
WHERE HE CAME FROM--
AND GOD HELP ANYONE
WHO GETS IN HIS WAY.

ON SALE IN OCTOBER...
**GUNSLINGER
SPAWN No.1.**
HIS QUEST BEGINS!

SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

TODD McFARLANE INTERVIEWS SEAN LEWIS

You wrote an original series for Image Comics called Coyotes, one of my first published works was in a book called Coyote by Epic Comics. I write Spawn and now you write King Spawn... Coincidence?!?

No, this has always been the plan. I've had this in motion since Coyote dropped in March of '85. It feels good to finally admit that.

As a comics writer that has worked for large publishers as well as on creator owned projects, what are some of the challenges that you have faced with wanting to tell your stories?

I think when it's creator owned there is no one to please but yourself and your collaborators. So, those experiences are usually really enjoyable. Outside of Image there can sometimes be mandates outside of the book you're writing and that can get tricky. There have been times where I've been hired late in the game by a larger publisher and you inherit a lot of things you knew

nothing about. So, instead of going wild with your story you spend most of your time trying to get all the pieces you inherited to fit together. It's always better when you can be at the front of the process when it's all getting laid out.

Javi Fernandez has been turning in some of the best art of his career on King Spawn. Does his raw and visceral style influence your writing much?

YES. Javi's art is insane, it's a huge influence. I remember right when you hired me, going through his instagram and looking at certain pages and saying, that has to be in Spawn. I think with each issue, I get more informed by what he's doing and now we even hop on messenger and I'll just ask what do you want to draw- or what would be the best way for you to break down this page? His style is so visceral and energetic and just DIRTY, in the best way. It would be dumb to ignore it and not let it drive a lot of my decisions for how the book plays out.

Why choose to work on a Spawn book?

Who would say no to this? Honestly, I think I feel most at home with darker characters. Loners. Morally ambiguous anti-heroes. People who got a shit deal but are going to make someone pay for it. So, when the possibility came up, I leaped. I read Spawn as a kid. I read Miller's Daredevil and Dark Knight's. I read Ennis' Punisher and Preacher (the nuns, loved me and my reading material at St. Joe's!). I think the idea of a world that was dark and manipulating us and demanded us to be adults before we were ready, made sense to me. And who better to go to war with all the darkness of that world than SPAWN? It's been a joy.



Image of **SEAN LEWIS**

SEAN LEWIS INTERVIEWS TODD McFARLANE

Todd! We are here! King Spawn 1! This is nuts and audacious and I want to know... why a whole universe? Most people branch out with a single book or a mini series. Why were you like no I want a whole world?

Actually, I didn't just decide to create a whole new universe... most of it had already been built over the thirty-year run of the original SPAWN title. What began to become more apparent to me is that having only one book would not give me the number of pages needed each month to be able to expand upon so many characters already in existence.

The thing about storing up three decades worth of characters and stories is that when the time finally came (like now) I had a bunch of ingredients already. The bigger plan is to begin adding to those already existing pieces. Let's all circle back in five years and see how this ambitious project is moving forward.

I've been so lucky to see the art for a bunch of the books. The artists? How do you find them? What are you looking for? They've all been so unique and completely incredible.

On the artist front, the first conceit is that you find the very best talent that is "available" at the time, as one would assume most of the top artists would already be working on other projects. But, to my surprise, I didn't have to "settle" on any of the artists I've hired. Some of the most visually exciting artists were excited enough to want to hear more about what I was planning. And if you've read SPAWN'S UNIVERSE #1 already you know what I'm talking about.

As for this particular book, I was purposefully looking for someone that would give a different interpretation visually to the Spawn character and his world, that would not be an exact match to the look on the regular SPAWN title. Since there will now be two monthly titles dedicated to the Spawn character, I thought it would be important to give two looks and let the readers decide if both books are worth their hard-earned money each month.

Javi Fernandez fit that bill perfectly for me! I saw one specific image he posted on his Instagram page that blew me away. The mood. The style and atmosphere of that particular drawing felt exactly like what I was looking for in this book. And Javi's enthusiasm, from the get-go, was so obvious from his emails, I knew I had found the right person. And I can promise all of you that this first issue of KING SPAWN, is just the beginning of what you can expect from him in the future. He has already drawn the first four issues and each, in all honesty, has gotten better and better with each page. Plus, I am always envious of artists that have skills I never will.



Image of **TODD McFARLANE** (on left)

When did you know you wanted to expand? And did a specific thing or moment trigger it? I'm curious about that a Ha moment where you're like I have to do this.

The answer to this question is much like my first response above. But there were two moments that cemented it for me; first was I was coming close to releasing the 300th issue of the original SPAWN title. I knew that a lot of eyes would be on that book, so if I was ever going to attempt this thing that has been in the back of my mind, since the formation of IMAGE COMICS way back in 1992, now would be the time. And so, the story in issue 300 was a way for me to plant some of the catalysts that would lead up to my expansion of this shared universe.

The second moment, that happened recently, was seeing how many pages I was devoting to other characters in Spawn's own book. It struck me as odd that his book was becoming more of a team-up title instead of one devoted to a singular character. And the only way to ever solve this potential problem is that I needed to find other outlets for those stories and characters. Now I have the beginning of those outlets with this monthly title along with the soon to be released GUNSLINGER SPAWN #1 (in October) and the team book called THE SCORCHED #1 (in December).



Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at: spawningground@mcfarlane.com,

THE YEAR OF...



GUNSLINGER

#1

S P A W N

On sale **OCTOBER**

THE SCORCHED

#1

On sale **DECEMBER**

GUNSLINGER

S P A W N



OCTOBER 2021



ONLY FROM
IMAGECOMICS.COM

Image Comics ® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image comics, Inc. All rights reserved